

THE TIMES

1785-1985

Tomorrow

Aids '85
The truth behind the Aids hysteria

Oriental art
A Chinese meal fit for an Emperor

Officially secret
Peter Kellner leaks a document yet to be written

Barcelona bid
A strong Catalan claim to stage the Olympics

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize was shared between four winners yesterday. Mrs Lillian Ponder of Chadwell St Mary, Essex, Mr Frederick Colclough of Glossop, Derbyshire and Mr Terence O'Hara of Upper Mill, Oldham, Lancashire, each received £500. Portfolio list, page 18; how to play, back page Information Service.

Iraq bombs steel plant inside Iran

At least 11 people were killed and 30 injured when two Iraqi planes fired six rockets on a steel plant near Ahvaz in Iran's Khuzestan province yesterday, the Iranian news agency said. An unfinished nuclear plant at Bushehr, on Iran's Gulf coast, was also attacked.

Irishman faces bombing charge

A man from South Down is expected to appear in court today charged in connection with the mortar bomb attack on Newry police station for which nine RUC officers died. It is understood that he is one of several men arrested after the attack.

Girl's transplant

Brooke Matthews, aged five, whose father staged an armed robbery to pay for lifesaving surgery, was being given a heart and lung transplant at Harefield Hospital, London last night. She is the youngest person in Britain to undergo the operation.

Quake toll 124

The Chile earthquake has killed at least 124 people, injured 2,000 and forced countless others to camp amid the debris of shattered city streets. Page 6

Thatcher pledge

Mrs Thatcher assured Mr David Lange that Britain would continue to support New Zealand's trade interests in Europe despite their differences over nuclear policy. Page 8

Pound slips

The pound failed to respond to the ending of the miners' strike, closing 10 points down at \$1.0705 in London and \$1.0680 in New York. Page 19

£5m in debt

The once-illustrious Real Madrid, who play a cup-tie against Tottenham Hotspur tomorrow, are reported to be £5m in debt and having difficulty paying their players. Page 28

Leaders page, 15

Letters: On the miners from Mr M. E. Edwards, and Mr C. J. Saville Glanville; peers' hours, from Lord Shackleton. Leading articles: Coal; Fluoride; India.

Features, page 12-14

Star Wars myths: how the coal strike will affect the TUC; why blue is best for blacks; by Roger Scruton. Spectrum: Private Eye comes in from the cold. Fashion: rustles of spring. Computer Horizons, 23-25.

Obituary, page 16

Mr James Dale. Mr Aichiro Fujiyama. Classified, 25-27, 31-34. Computer appointments, legal: general.

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Pitmen will go back 'heads held high'

Battle to continue in Scotland and Kent

Miners in Scotland and Kent are to remain on strike in a quest for an amnesty for colleagues dismissed during the dispute which ends with a mass return to work elsewhere today.

Mr Neil Kinnock said amnesty for those guilty of serious crimes was impossible. He was pelted with tomatoes by students who said he had betrayed the miners. Ministers who monitored the strike remained cautious about the prospects for normal working.

Mr Ian MacGregor, said miners were the greatest workforce in the world and hinted that in future he would negotiate with them directly, rather than through the union.

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Most miners will end the year-long coal strike this morning, but the conflict is to go on in the militant areas of Scotland and Kent after local votes to stay out until an amnesty for dismissed pitmen is granted.

On the railways, rail union leaders decided yesterday to call of the ban on moving coal from today, but they will tell their members not to cross official picket lines.

The National Coal Board is preparing for a mass "march back" by more than 80,000 pitmen in the striking coalfields of Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland and South Wales in accordance with the decision of the National Union of Mineworkers to return to work without an agreement on the key issue of closing uneconomic collieries.

But little coal will be turned in the next few days and the 15-month overtime ban is to continue in practically all the coalfields. The board is to withhold pay rises due to the men until normal working, including weekend overtime, is resumed.

Mr Arthur Scargill, leader of the NUM, said yesterday that the union campaign against pit closures and job losses would go on. "People must understand that the greatest battle has been the struggle itself," he said.

"Make no mistake, miners will now conduct a guerrilla war against the board. When they talk about the non-implementation of pay rises, that will infuriate miners."

The board and Mr Kinnock poured cold water on the Scargill line. Mr Michael Eaton, chief spokesman for the board argued that there was a "desire to return to normality, and think that will be the all-prevailing factor."

Mr Kinnock said it was unlikely that miners would engage in disruption and guerrilla tactics "because people who work in collieries are much too responsible to jeopardize themselves by disruptive action."

But miners would not take pit closures with a shrug of the shoulders. "There is going to be an anxious process of negotiation ahead," he said.

For the moment there seems no prospect of such talks between the NUM and the board, and there is unlikely to be any great hurry to open negotiations as the industry tries to absorb its huge striking labour force. In many pits the strikers have arranged a march back led by the colliery band, walking into work behind the union branch banner.

But there will be pickets out again this morning at the three pits in Kent and ten in Scotland after coalfield decisions not to heed the general return to work. Area NUM leaders voted yesterday to continue the strike in Scotland over statements by the coalfield director, Mr Albert Wheeler, that there would be no amnesty there.

Nearly 250 men, more than a third of the total dismissed, have been dismissed in the area. Mr Michael McGahey, president of the Scots miners, said the decision reflected "unremitting bitterness and anger" at the blank refusal of reinstatement.

The board may think again about its policy locally, and the miners' delegates are to meet again on Friday.

For most miners, today is expected to have something of a carnival air. Mr Scargill has urged the strikers to go back "with your heads held high" and in Yorkshire they will wear white badges reading "I backed my union, I didn't scab."

The Yorkshire area council of the NUM voted 70 to 8 in favour of the return to work. Another 1,059 pitmen walked through the picket lines yesterday to end their involvement in the dispute, far fewer than anticipated by the board but enough to bring the number of men who had abandoned the strike on its last day to 97,000, or 53 per cent of the total NUM membership.

Working miners yesterday staged a process that could lead to a High Court action to compel Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers to seek re-election.

Lawyers representing the National Working Miners' Committee, based mainly in the Nottinghamshire coalfield, have taken counsel's opinion which is understood to argue that they would have a case invoking a section of the Trade Union Act 1984 covering elections to union executive which comes into force from October 1.

It appears under the Act that Mr Scargill, as a voting member of the NUM executive, would need to stand for re-election within five years of his election or by December next year at the latest.

Working miners' leaders are expected to write to Mr Scargill asking if he will offer himself for re-election and if he agrees they will pull away from court action. An alternative strategy for Mr Scargill would be to renounce his vote on the executive, which would remove the necessity for re-election.

Working miners are determined to seek the removal of Mr Scargill's influence, preferably by his defeat at the ballot box. Mr Colin Clarke, chairman of the working miners committee, said last night: "If the membership re-elect him as president then that will be the situation, but at least we want to give the membership a choice to say whether they want him there or not."

"From close contact I have had with people in the area, the sooner he is gone the better. He has destroyed the finest union that was ever created," Mr Clarke said.

Mr Scargill's election in 1981 guaranteed him a job for life and a change in the union's election system would require rule changes. The NUM's policy is not to entertain such changes as part of its opposition to the Government's labour laws.

On the stock market Fraser shares jumped from 344p before the bid to 415p, as speculators gambled on even higher offers materializing. The price later relapsed to 403p after Sear's, the Selfridges group, ruled itself out as a bidder.

Kenneth Fleet, page 19



Mr Ian MacGregor arriving for the Coal Industry lunch yesterday. (Photograph: John Manning)

Kinnock opposes amnesty

By Julian Haviland
Political Editor

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said yesterday there could be no amnesty for miners convicted of "vicious crimes during the dispute."

All miners who had been dismissed should be reinstated unless they had been committed of serious crimes of violence or serious acts of vandalism, he said on Independent Television News.

Mr Kinnock was pelted with tomatoes by students as he left Harrogate College of Further Education in North London. They accused him of betraying the miners.

He grabbed one of them by the lapels and told him: "If you were a bit bigger..."

The Prime Minister and Cabinet colleagues who have monitored the coal dispute met yesterday.

Continued on back page, col 3

MacGregor may go over union's head

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Mr Ian MacGregor, the National Coal Board chairman, yesterday described Britain's miners as "the greatest workforce in the world" as he warned the National Union of Mineworkers that future negotiations could take place directly with the miners.

Speaking at the Coal Industry lunch in London, he said: "Consultation and cooperation will be carried out in the true meaning of the word, rather than by lip service to familiar procedures and methods. The management of this industry have learned to communicate directly with the people under their control."

Mr MacGregor said the NCB hoped to see the emergence in the NUM of a representative leadership. He said: "We have survived the past 12 months despite what I believe will be seen as misguided attempts to bring the industry down."

Praising the working miners of the Midlands, he said: "The coal industry, and indeed the country, owes much to these men who have stood up for what they believe to be the right conduct and procedures within their union."

"We have learned much about our workforce through more intimate contact than ever before. Those who remained on strike will soon understand that the men who have remained at work helped save the future of the coal industry. They are the men who worked to preserve and secure jobs for the future."

Mr MacGregor also attempted to create a calm atmosphere for today's return to work. He said: "There will be no recriminations as people return to work. This is no time to talk of victory or defeat."

Gromyko puts arms blame on Bonn

From Richard Owen
Moscow

With a week to go before the resumption of superpower dialogue in Geneva, Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, yesterday accused West Germany of helping to "torpedo" arms control by engaging in "joint research" with the Americans on "Star Wars" space weapons.

But Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, who made a hastily arranged unscheduled stop in Moscow for talks en route to Finland, said the time had come to "open a new chapter" in East-West "relations", and that Western Europe as well as America had a responsibility for ensuring success at Geneva.

Herr Genscher left Moscow yesterday as suddenly as he had arrived on Sunday night. Diplomats said his purpose had been to ensure that European interests - including the Euro-missile question - are not forgotten at Geneva. Other observers said Herr Genscher's lightning visit had more to do with next Sunday's local elections in West Germany.

Tass said that during his "short working visit" Herr Genscher had discussed disarmament with Mr Gromyko, but had defended the deployment of American missiles in Europe and had presented American arms policy in space as "a distorted light".

Mr Gromyko had expressed concern over Bonn's stand on "Star Wars" including its agreement to join Washington in space weapons research.

Tass said this made Bonn "an accomplice in torpedoing the whole process of limiting and reducing nuclear weapons".

Diplomats said Herr Genscher had conveyed West German displeasure over continuing charges in the Soviet press that Bonn harbours "revanchist" ambitions for the recovery of German territory in Eastern Europe.

The Soviet campaign is gathering momentum as the 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War approaches.

Herr Genscher said the British, French and other foreign ministers had welcomed his visit to Moscow.

Mr Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, is to visit Moscow next Sunday, two days before the Geneva talks open. He is expected to see President Chernenko, who last week reappeared after a two-month absence but is visibly enfeebled and in poor health.

US BACKING: Mr Paul Nitze who is masterminding American strategy at the Geneva arms talks gave his blessing to the Genscher mission in a 10-nation interview linked by satellite to Washington yesterday (Henry Stanhope writes).

Britain to open talks with Libya

By Richard Dowden

Britain is about to begin talks aimed at improving relations with Libya for the first time since the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher outside the Libyan People's Bureau in St James's Square, in central London, in April.

The talks are to be held in Rome during the next few days under Italian government sponsorship, which looks after Britain's interests in Libya. Mr Stephen Edgerton, head of the Foreign Office Middle East desk, and Mr Salah Eddin Mahdi Msalam, the Libyan representative in Britain, are already in Rome.

The agreement to hold talks was one of the "rewards" offered by Britain in return for the release last month of the four Britons held hostage for nearly nine months.

It is understood that Libya is seeking more visas from Britain and an easing of restrictions on commercial transactions.

Bomb blast kills guerrillas after raid by Israelis

From Robert Fisk, Maarak, southern Lebanon

The guerrilla war against the Israeli occupation army in southern Lebanon achieved a frightening new dimension yesterday when, almost exactly 24 hours after Israeli troops had finished raiding Maarak, a carefully-concealed bomb exploded in the office of the Guerrilla resistance leaders in the village, killing almost all of them.

Khalil Jeradi and Mohammed Saad, two of the principal names in the guerrilla movement, who only on Sunday had threatened to take the war into Israel itself, were among the dead.

The bomb had been concealed on the roof of Mr Jeradi's office above the mosque, in which I and other Western correspondents had been during a press conference the previous day, and its effect was both devastating and gruesome. Part of the mosque's roof crashed down on the office and on worshippers below as the guerrilla leaders were torn to pieces by the explosion.

Almost the entire French battalion of the United Nations Force in southern Lebanon, whose headquarters adjoin Maarak, poured into the village to dig into the rubble and to hold back hundreds of screaming men and women who tried to enter the ruins. Many of the soldiers were visibly moved, exhorting journalists to see the bodies and commiserating with the villagers. At least 12 bodies had been recovered by sundown, some of them civilians.

The French also brought in their bomb-disposal team from Naqoura, and a French lieutenant collected pieces of an electrical mechanism which might have been the bomb. He showed me several hunks of metal, one of which had markings which read "Minnesota Mining Company." It had been manufactured in West Germany.

"This is the work of Israel," one of Mr Jeradi's wounded colleagues shouted. "The Israeli soldiers placed this bomb when they left Maarak." He produced no evidence, although several French troops said privately that they had their own suspicions.

"As a member of the UN, I Tel Aviv (Reuters) - The Israeli Army denied it was responsible for the explosion. "No IDF force was active in the Maarak area today," an army statement said.

In Israel's most northern town of Metulla, the Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, yesterday reiterated that Israel would respond when its soldiers were attacked.

There was, of course, nothing more cruel about the killing of the guerrilla leadership in Maarak than there have been about the deaths of countless Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon, nor was there anything exclusive about Maarak's grief. A savage and merciless guerrilla war is now going on here, and, in the words of one Lebanese guerrilla sympathizer

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Peres seeks direct talks with Husain

From Christopher Walker, Eilat

Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday made a dramatic plea to King Husain of Jordan and President Mubarak of Egypt to agree to direct peace talks with Israeli "without prior conditions or taboos" when they meet tomorrow for their summit in Egypt.

Responding to speculation that he might be asked to attend the meeting at the Red Sea resort of Hurgada, Mr Peres said he knew nothing of any such invitation but "surely could not refuse" if one were to arise.

The Prime Minister was addressing a press conference called in Eilat, within sight of King Husain's elegant resort palace just across the border in Agaba.

"I feel that there is a sense of shyness on the part of our neighbours", Mr Peres said. "I do not understand why they are so shy; why do they hesitate to meet in full daylight so that we can talk fully and clearly about the obstacles between us?"

The fact that Mr Peres, who is known for his dovish stand towards Jordan, chose to spend last night in Eilat prompted rumours that he was planning a secret meeting with the King, possibly on a boat moored in the Gulf of Agaba. This was flatly denied by Israeli officials, while Mr Peres said with a smile: "As far as I am concerned, I prefer to sleep at night and negotiate in the day."

The press conference was seen as an attempt by Mr Peres to maintain the peace initiative launched last month by President Mubarak and subsequently criticized both in the Arab world and by right-wing leaders in Israel, one of whom described it as "much ado about nothing".

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Good design at good prices

Counting the cost as struggle goes on in the Kent and Scottish coalfields

One in three dismissed may get job back but amnesty is unlikely

By Rupert Morris

About one in three of the 726 miners dismissed in the course of the year-long strike is likely to be reinstated as the National Coal Board resists demands for a general amnesty and insists that each disciplinary case should be considered on merit.

In north Derbyshire, where the area director, Mr Ken Jones, has adopted a conciliatory tone, 41 of the 123 dismissed men have been reinstated; almost all were guilty of stealing coal, which is regarded as a minor offence, and an understandable one, given the hardship many suffered during the winter.

Among the 41, however, was a miner who was dismissed for hitting a fellow worker. He was reinstated after his victim pleaded on his behalf. The two men have subsequently shaken hands a mile underground at Shirebrook colliery.

A further 26 men out of 131 dismissed in the north-east have been reinstated; again, most were guilty of stealing coal. Board spokesmen nationally and locally have emphasized, however, that those guilty of serious offences such as beating up a strikebreaker or vandalizing board property will not have their jobs back.

Mr Albert Wheeler, Scotland area director, has taken a particularly hard line, insisting that all 180 men dismissed had committed serious offences, and "there can be no amnesty".

In the western area, Mr John Northard, the director, has

TOTAL DISMISSALS*

Scotland	(14,400)	180
North-East	(24,500)	131
N Yorks	(13,500)	24
Doncaster	(13,500)	76
Barnsley	(14,300)	28
S Yorks	(14,700)	404
N Derby	(11,100)	123
Notts	(17,000)	22
S Notts	(13,700)	22
S Mids	(13,600)	50
Western	(19,100)	10
S Wales	(21,500)	42

*Workforce in brackets

Source: NCB

taken the same line with his 10 dismissed employees. "There is no place for them in the industry," he said, adding that only fresh evidence could offer any hope of reinstatement.

The board reckons that about a third of those dismissed was guilty of theft, a third of assault, and a further third of having damaged board property.

In South Wales, where the strike was solidly supported for almost all its duration, there were only 42 dismissals, and the union lodged a general appeal yesterday. It was understood that the majority, who had stolen coal, were likely to be reinstated.

The normal appeals procedure, agreed in 1948, which will be followed at many pits over the next few days, is for the lodge secretary to approach the colliery manager and, if unsuccessful, to take the case to the area director, who has the final say.

Mr Jack Taylor, Yorkshire area president, said yesterday that he was still seeking an amnesty, but, he added, "Until such time as it is achieved, we support the decision of the one-day conference to establish a national trust fund to protect the position of these members."

Mr Billy Stobbs, NUM executive member for Durham, said: "If we cannot get them their jobs back we will have to look after them for the rest of their lives."

Mr Gordon Butler, area secretary in north Derbyshire, who is seeking a local amnesty, said: "What the board is really saying is that it demands more of these men than society does. If a man commits a crime, then society demands he pays the penalty through the courts. The board says he should also be condemned to a lifetime on the dole."

The breakdown of offences as charged up to February 26 is: breach of the peace 4,296; obstructing police 1,682; obstructing highway 640; criminal damage 1,615; arson 15; assault on police 359; actual bodily harm 424; grievous bodily harm 39; theft 349; and murder three.

Resisting arrest 19; besetting 275; burglary 31; handling stolen goods one; possessing drugs one; breach 32; damage (various offences) 13; drunkenness 62; unlawful assembly 509; affray 21; and riot 137.

Railway offences 20; incitement one; reckless driving 16; conspiracy to cause damage 13; explosive offences three; threatening to kill five; unlawful imprisonment two; and others 294.

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GRASSROOTS REACTION

Scotland: Fight on for amnesty

By Ronald Faux

The National Union of Mineworkers in Scotland voted yesterday to continue the pit strike in an effort to win an amnesty for miners dismissed during the dispute. Delegates from the Scottish collieries voted by seven to six to reject the decision of the NUM national conference for an organized return to work. They blamed the hard-line attitude of Mr Albert Wheeler, director of the NCB in Scotland, and his refusal to negotiate over the miners' dismissal for the strike.

Mr Michael McGahay, President of the Scottish NUM and national vice-president, left a meeting in Edinburgh looking grim as a large crowd of pit men chanted "we are not going back" and "we will not be defeated". He told a press conference shortly afterwards that there was tremendous, bitter anger in the Scottish coalfield at the statements by Mr Wheeler, and his insistence that there will be no amnesty in Scotland for dismissed miners.

"We have 250 men sacked at the behest of Mr Wheeler. In other areas directors are saying there will be an amnesty, and the negotiations are taking place on amnesty. Mr Peter Walker last night said 'yes, there will be an amnesty except for serious crimes'. And Mrs Thatcher said there should be reconciliation. We have heard all these statements but the one voice, loud and clear, coming from Mr Wheeler is that there will be no amnesty."

Mr McGahay accused the Scottish director of causing the complete break-up of industrial relations in the Scottish coalfield, even before the strike began.

Wales: Pit chief attacks Kinnock

From Tim Jones

As miners from Mardy prepared yesterday to return to their pit in defiant mood with banners waving and brass bands playing, Mr Emyl Williams, president of the South Wales National Union of Mineworkers, launched a bitter attack on Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, over his part in the dispute.

Mr Williams, whose area was pivotal in promoting the return to work without an agreement, said: "His utterances were tragic. He sat on the fence but in the end he fell the wrong way."

He said that he was one of the first trade union leaders publicly to back Mr Kinnock's attempt to gain the leadership of the party. "He should have come out for us from day one."

While recriminations about the decision to call off the strike reverberated through the coalfields, Mr Terry Thomas, vice-president of the Welsh miners, who moved the resolution at Sunday's conference, defended the strategy.

He said: "It was the most difficult resolution that I have ever had to move. But I felt that we had reached a stage where the survival of the National Union of Mineworkers had become the paramount issue."

When the men of Mardy walked before their band today the new electric bells in the village church will chime out to wake up the whole community.

Mr Bernard Maslin, a face worker, said: "We are not going back in defeat, but with our heads held high. I am very sad that we have got to go back without a settlement, but it is the only thing to do because of the drift back to work."

Kent: Vote for strike to continue

From Barrie Clement

A mass meeting of Kent miners yesterday voted overwhelmingly to continue their strike, in defiance of the national decision on Sunday to go back to work.

The 2,000 pitmen in Britain's smallest but most militant coalfield are demanding an amnesty for 42 of their colleagues dismissed during the strike.

Pickets are expected at all three collieries in east Kent today in an attempt to prevent an increase in the 237 miners who have been working. Some demonstrators appeared at the pits yesterday as seven "new faces" turned up.

A further mass meeting is to be held in two weeks' time to review any talks miners' leaders have with area management.

Mr John Moyle chairman of the National Union of Mineworkers' branch at Betteshanger, the biggest colliery, said that many of those dismissed were union officials involved in occupations at his own pit and at Tilmanstone colliery.

"The issue therefore is not so much about jobs, but about being represented by people who have been elected. We've given our all in this dispute, but we're going to carry on. We are going to organize locally, nationally and internationally."

The packed meeting yesterday at the Granville Theatre, Ramsgate, was lobbied by a dozen of the dismissed men's wives who urged the miners not to abandon them.

Mr Jack Collins, union area secretary, told the meeting that the National Coal Board and the Government were trying to choose who should lead the Kent miners.



Mr Philip Ball, the brother who went to work.

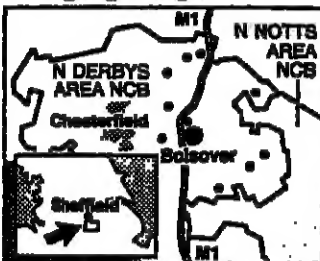
A FAMILY DIVIDED

Strike set brother against brother

By Craig Seton

The only thing Philip Ball and his brother Graham had in common over the mining strike was that they both voted for it last March. Then they went their different ways, their principles but opposite stands dividing the family.

The only words exchanged were angry shouts at the picket line - one of them on it, the other going through.



Bolsover: Notts NUM men "marooned" in Derbyshire.

Philip, aged 32, continued working at Bolsover colliery in north Derbyshire because, as a member of the Nottinghamshire NUM, he felt obliged to follow the 73 per cent majority who voted against the strike. Graham, aged 35, was a member of the same branch, was equally compelled not to cross picket lines and stayed on strike throughout.

Before the dispute the brothers were close - going together to football matches, playing snooker and drinking in Bolsover's public houses. But once the split developed between them, it engulfed their family - a mining family in every sense with numerous and close links with the colliery. Philip became an outcast shunned by his mother, three brothers and three sisters.

Their mother, Mrs Joyce

THE WORKER

'I would like things to get back to normal'

Philip, a pit worker since 1969, works in the Bolsover colliery computer room. His wife is a cleaner at the pit. The couple have three children aged between four and 14 and live in a three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Bolsover, close to most members of the family.

Philip said: "I voted for the strike because I thought there was going to be another Robens era in the coalfield and that lots of pits would close. I knew that one day the Conservatives would try to get their own back for 1972 and '74."

"Our ballot went against a strike - so I obeyed the democratic wish of the majority and carried on working. What is so maddening about it all is that if Scargill had had a national ballot, instead of an area-by-area strike he would have got a majority I am sure."

"It has not been easy for me. On the picket lines they shout at us that we have not lost anything but I reckon I have lost about £6,000 since the

overtime ban came into force 16 months ago. I was assaulted outside a union meeting and kicked at a branch meeting. My car has been painted. My whole family ignores me and will not speak to me although I would be happy if things got back to normal again."

"It was a real setback for Graham when I got elected treasurer because I beat a striking miner by about 20 votes."

"I was accused of talking Janice into staying at work at the pit where she is a cleaner, but that is not true. My brother in Yorkshire sent me some Scargill propaganda in the post, but it was just rubbish. The last time I saw him was when we went to a football match together and I was determined not to talk about the dispute."

"I cannot see myself getting back with Graham and I don't know what will happen with the rest of the family. Everything is very hostile, but I have never regretted the move I have made."



Mr Graham Ball, the brother who stayed out, with his wife Janet (Photograph: David Muscroft).

Ball, a Bolsover miner's widow, will have nothing to do with him, his wife or three young daughters.

His sister Carol, who works in the colliery canteen, gave up the strike towards the end but avoids him at work. Another sister, Rosemary, was on strike for five months until she gave up her job as a colliery cleaner. She will not speak to him. His brother Graham, the TUC education officer for Yorkshire, sent Christmas cards only to Philip's children. They were returned.

According to Philip, another brother, Andrew, a miner at Bolsover until a back injury forced him to give up pit work and, Janice, his third sister, who worked throughout the strike as a colliery cleaner, have also broken off contact with him.

The Ball family rift is public knowledge in Bolsover, a small community almost entirely dependent on work at the colliery. Passions ran high throughout the strike which, at first, kept most men away from work.

THE STRIKER

'I walk past him as if he was a street lamp'

Graham, the striker, is a married man with no children. A face worker at Bolsover for 18 years, he lives within a mile of his brother in a modern, attractive bungalow. His wife works and the financial hardship suffered by many strikers is not so severe for the couple.

He said: "Both Philip and myself picketed at Bolsover during the 1972 and 1974 strikes and I can remember him and another union man carrying our banner to the top of the road until they were threatened with arrest by the police."

"Now I cannot understand him. I think my brother and everybody else who worked has betrayed me and the whole mining industry. No way were Nottinghamshire members going to support this strike because they were earning too much bonus money and they did not think their pits would be devastated by closures as much as other areas."

"I want now to do with Philip. Every man who walked through these colliery gates

while I stood there was thinking 'Bigger you, I am all right'."

"I know families have been split and I really do regret that but how could I speak to Philip when he was going in and I was standing down there outside the pit? My brother-in-law went back to work after 10 months, but he is different. He gave us those 10 months, so I could not refuse to speak to him."

"If I see Philip in the street I just walk past him as if he was a street lamp. There is no way I will get back with him because I have lost too much."

"I have lost some good friends. I will not speak to the best man at our wedding 12 years ago because he worked as well."

"Arthur Scargill warned that there was a list of pits to be closed and gradually the truth has come out. That is why I cannot understand Philip. I have not got any kids, but I am fighting for jobs for the young ones in the future."

Walker's stock rises with rank and file

By Anthony Revins

Political Correspondent
Mr Peter Walker's skilled ministerial management of the miners' strike has increased his chances in any future race for the Conservative leadership, according to many backbenchers yesterday.

One Tory MP said: "In the political stock market Peter Walker shares are doing very well indeed at the moment."

He appears to have scored particularly strongly against Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, the other "wet" challenger to Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, in any contest for the succession.

But some political reservations have not been wiped out by the Secretary of State for Energy, particularly his failure to press forward with plans for the injection of private capital into the gas and electricity industries.

There are some MPs who are suggesting that his current high standing should be used as a pretext by the Prime Minister to promote him perhaps to the Department of Employment, so that a more aggressively right-wing minister can be put into the Department of Energy to press on with privatization plans.

It is thought Mr Walker would be an asset in damping down public concern over unemployment. His handling of the coal dispute is said to have been "superb", "restrained", "firm and fair". The general agreement of Conservative backbenchers is that "Scargill met his match".

The common feature of praise was Mr Walker's ability to present a case to colleagues and the country. He was the first minister to write briefing letters to Conservative MPs.

Mr Walker has also shown attention to the individual sensitivities of backbenchers, and has given great support to Conservative MPs from mining areas.

His ability to communicate and to cultivate friendship has always been regarded as an asset in any comparison with Mr Heseltine over the leadership.

Mr Walker was one of the few Cabinet ministers to make approaches to the new intake of Tory MPs in 1983, in spite of their right-wing leanings, in contrast to what is regarded as Mr Heseltine's aloof and more distant attitude.

It is felt Mr Walker has broadened his support within the party by his advocacy of a line which might have been more in keeping with Mr Tebbit and Mrs Margaret Thatcher than the "wet" wing of the Conservative party.

One MP who said he had been thinking about Mr Walker's skills, "his star has undoubtedly risen", said: "If you regard the leadership as a race, then Peter Walker is a stayer."

Pit walkout after sacking

Two hundred working miners at Kiveton Park colliery near Sheffield walked out yesterday when a working colleague, Mr Trevor Wilson, aged 32 was dismissed.

Mr Wilson, who had been back at work for two months was dismissed after being convicted of besetting a working miners house while on strike.

Eight collieries under threat

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

At least eight collieries are threatened with early closure by the National Coal Board's intention to reduce the amount of less-making capacity. Five will be discussed in the new colliery review procedure and the other three were agreed previously with the unions.

Concern about the future of the review procedure, agreed with the pit deputies' union Nacods last October, will be voiced at today's meeting in Doncaster of the Nacods executive. Senior union officials are sceptical of ministers' assurances that their agreement is sacrosanct.

Mr Ken Sampey, the Nacods president, said yesterday that the procedure can operate only if the National Union of Mineworkers and the colliery managers' union are willing participants. As the position stands with the NUM returning to work without agreement, it is not a signatory to the procedure.

Immediate pressure to reduce capacity has been alleviated by the production losses suffered during the 51-week strike. The closure programme announced on March 6 last year envisaged a four-million tonne reduction

involving the loss of about twenty pits and 20,000 jobs, but since then 64.5 million tonnes have been lost and one pit, Bogside in Scotland, has closed because of industrial action.

In its final offer to the NUM, the board said that it wanted to see the modified review procedure in place by June 1 and, failing agreement in the details, the present review procedure in place by June 1 and, failing agreement on the details the present review procedure would

NCB CLOSURE PROPOSALS

Area	Pit	Status
S Yorks	Cortonwood	To be discussed in new review procedure
Barnsley	Bulcliffe Wood	Agreed merger: Highgate to close this year
Doncaster	Goldthorpe/Highgate	
S Notts	Moorgreen	Agreed closure next July
S Notts	Pye Hill	Agreed closure next August
Scotland	Poimaise	To be discussed in new review procedure
Scotland	Bogside	Closed Feb 1984; flooding and gassing during NUM's time ban
Kent	Snowdown	To be discussed in new review procedure
Durham	Herrington	ditto
N Derby	Westthorpe	Agreed closure last March

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Courts keep control over sequestrated funds

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent
The courts' authority over the National Union of Mineworkers' financial affairs and its £8 million assets will remain in force until, at the very least, the union has purged its contempt.

The NUM is subject to the control of the courts through two court orders, the writ of sequestration under which sequestrators were appointed to seize its assets; and the receiver appointed, instead of the union's trustees, to take charge of handling its funds.

The first of these that is likely to be discharged is the sequestration. But, for that, the union will have to purge its contempt by apologizing to the court and giving undertakings as to its future conduct, and expressing its willingness to abide by the court's orders.

When the Receiver, Mr Michael Arnold, senior insolvency partner in Arthur Young, the London firm of chartered accountants applied recently to have the sequestrators of the union's funds discharged or suspended, the court refused. The Judge, Mr Justice

Nicholls said the union's attitude was still one of "open defiance of the authority of the courts", and it had taken no steps to purge its contempt. The sequestrators, from the chartered accountants Price Waterhouse, were appointed last October after the union refused to pay the £200,000 fine imposed for contempt of court for its refusal to stop calling the strike official in breach of court orders.

The ball, therefore, is clearly

Whatever the outcome of the various legal actions, the strike is set to make history through the way both civil and criminal courts have been used on a scale unprecedented in an industrial dispute.

It has been marked by convoluted legal proceedings and counter proceedings involving the civil courts in a test of the limits of their powers and, in one of their rarest precedents, writs of sequestration.

It has also been firmly embedded in the criminal courts where record numbers of charges for a civil disturbance

in the NUM's court. If the contempt is purged, the court may end the sequestration, possibly after another application by Mr Arnold. But its funds will still remain in the hands of the receiver until the court is satisfied that any trustees appointed are "fit and proper" persons to handle the funds responsibly.

On that front, an application by the union to end the receivership may well come when the sequestration is

ended. Mr Arnold as acting sole trustee, would in any case have to go back to court at that point for fresh directions, as his brief extends at present to holding the assets to the orders of the sequestrators. Taking day-to-day charge of the union's finances, once unfrozen, would clearly be a very different matter.

In the meantime, there are several other legal actions still pending. Lawyers maintain at present that those will be

pursued by the working miners involved. If they are dropped, it will not be without an out-of-court settlement, otherwise those bringing the actions may become liable to costs.

They include a claim by the National Working Miners' Committee to make the members of the NUM executive personally liable for the £200,000 contempt fine. That has yet to be set down for hearing.

they saw it, with the union's own rules.

The National Coal Board has deliberately not resorted to the courts to enforce the law and control of mass picketing has been left to the police.

One crucial issue highlighted is how to make contempt proceedings work and how to avoid costly contempt proceedings leading to sequestration and then more contempt proceedings.

There is also likely to be increasing pressure for courts to take a more active role in enforcing their own orders.

College lecturers vote on action over pay as teachers step up strikes

By Lacy Hodges, Education Correspondent

As the teachers' selective strike action entered its second week yesterday it was disclosed that the 76,000 college lecturers were being balloted on whether to take industrial action over their pay claim.

The lecturers' union, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, is asking its members whether they are in favour of withdrawing goodwill and refusing to cover for absent colleagues, as a result of statements made by Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science.

"We think there is now a very strong indication that Sir Keith has told the employers that there will be no money for further education," a spokesman said. "We have been talking in good faith on the basis that extra money would be available."

Unlike the National Union of Teachers, the college lecturers have agreed to talk about restructuring salaries and their

Parents in race dispute set up 'protest school'

By Colin Hughes

Parents campaigning for the dismissal of the headmaster of Drummond Middle School in Bradford, who is at the centre of a race relations dispute, have set up a "protest school" for the children.

The parents' move has effectively shattered hopes of a reconciliation with Mr Ray Honeyford, the headmaster who has been accused of writing racist criticism.

The alternative school opened yesterday at the Pakistan Community Centre in Bradford, running eight classes with 21 tired and unemployed teachers who have offered their services. Out of 530 pupils at

Pink Panther film an 'insult' to Sellers

By Richard Dowden

As speculation grows about the motive for the murder of Miss Hilda Murrell, aged 78, West Mercia police have called in Mr Peter Smith, the assistant chief constable of Northumbria, to investigate the possibility that she died because of her connection with the Falklands conflict or with the anti-nuclear campaign.

New evidence suggests that Miss Murrell's body may have been moved. A farmer, Mr Ian Scott, told Granada Television's *World in Action* programme, broadcast last night, that he went to the wood where her body was found on the afternoon of the day she was murdered to check every tree and that if her body had been there he would have fallen over it.

New building for Kew

Work has started on a £2½ million contract to build a reference collection and exhibition building at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, west London. It was designed by the architects Manning Clamp & Partners, which won a competition attracting 270 entries, and is due to be completed in July next year.

Special Branch proposal

The Metropolitan Police is considering bringing the Anti-Terrorist Squad, C13, under the control of the Special Branch to improve coordination between the two main police units fighting politically-motivated crime.

The proposal would have to be ratified by the Home Office.

Sangster cited

Mr Peter Lilley, aged 36, a company director of Balaclava, Isle of Man, was granted a decree nisi in the Matrimonial court at Douglas yesterday on the ground of adultery by his wife, Susan, aged 28, with Mr Robert Sangster, aged 48, the racehorse breeder, of Derbyhaven, Isle of Man.

Publicans' union prefers flexible hours

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

More flexible rather than longer hours for public houses are being sought by the National Union of Licensed Victuallers, which speaks for about 25,000 tenants "tied" to breweries and many of those running free houses.

The union is doubtful whether the total amount of trade would increase with longer hours, and believes that the present nine-and-a-half hours or permitted opening time could be sufficient for some public houses.

In company with others in the catering trade and in tourism, the union welcomed the news that the Government

seems certain to replace the present archaic restrictions on licensing hours in England and Wales with the freedom enjoyed in Scotland for eight years.

The union is anxious to protect the right of tenants' choice on longer hours, but accepts that competition, in the day especially in tourist areas, may force extra opening time.

Projections by the Flexi-Law Action Group, fighting for licensing law reform, have suggested that more flexibility in hours was likely to create 15,000 new jobs in England and Wales and prompt greater investment in the leisure sector.

In Scotland more than 60 per cent of licensees have obtained permanent extensions, annually renewable, which enable opening from mid-morning to late at night.

The Brewers' Society expects a forthcoming Home Office report on the Scottish experience to show that there have been benefits, such as a considerable reduction in drunkenness.

It seems likely that Whitehall will want publicans to apply to licensing magistrates on the Scottish pattern, so the union is suggesting that the range of hours should be between 10am and midnight.

2 journals deny they labelled aide to Thatcher

A political aide to the Prime Minister was falsely accused by a Sunday newspaper of having tried to obstruct an inquiry into a London housing association when he was on its management committee, a High Court judge and libel jury were told.

Mr Richard Hartley, QC, for Mr Derek Howe, a journalist who works in the political office at 10 Downing Street, said that an article in *The Sunday Times* in November 1982 attacked him "in a particularly vicious way, because of who he worked for."

"You can almost sense the writer and *The Sunday Times* gloating over the embarrassment to the Conservative Party, the embarrassment to Mrs Thatcher and, of course, to Mr Howe," Mr Hartley told Mr Justice Cantly and the jury.

Mr Howe, of Dolphin Square, Pimlico, London, is suing Times Newspapers and a journalist, David Rose, claiming damages for alleged libel.

Times Newspapers and Mr Rose deny libel. They claim that the words complained of do not bear some of the meanings alleged, and that Mr Howe's action in telephoning Mr Terry Dicks, then chairman of Hillingdon council housing committee, now Conservative MP for Hayes and Harlington, was "highly improper."

Mr Howe is also suing the London weekly events magazine, *Time Out*, alleging libel in a similar article also written by Mr Rose. *Time Out* also denies libel.

The articles claimed that a barrister conducting an inquiry into the running of Strongbridge Housing Association had called in Scotland Yard to look into its financial affairs.

Mr Hartley, referring to *The Sunday Times* article, said the fact that £4.5 million of public money had been invested in the association had been "deliberately linked" with the police being called in.

The hearing continues today.



Sally-Jane Pendlebury, aged 22, a student of Guildhall School of Music and Drama, after she received the £2,500 Anna Instone memorial award made by Capital Radio yesterday. (Photograph: John Voos).

GPs shun the surgery computer

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

Family doctors are generally unconvinced about the value of microcomputers to their practice and image after 10 years of experimentation.

Only 400 of the 8,800 general practitioners are using them, according to the latest

issue of *The British Journal of Healthcare Computing*.

Dr Glyn Hayes, a GP and a computer enthusiast, says family doctors see themselves as helping patients "from the womb to the tomb" and that computers do not fit that image.

They feel computers are a

Vicars and dentists high in divorce league

By Kenneth Gosling

People who serve and care for the public are most at risk in terms of divorce, according to the National Marriage Guidance Council.

"We always knew that the younger people were when they married, the more likely it would end in divorce. But what is now more striking perhaps is the link with occupation," Mrs Zella West-Meads, of the council, said yesterday.

Taking a standard divorce rate figure of 100, the lowest on the scale are agricultural workers (two) while the farmers who employ them have a rating of 65, according to the council's book, *Relating to Marriage*.

Topping the league are personal service workers (365) followed by the armed services at 270.

The book examines 2,000 divorces by social class and occupation.

Most self-employed people enjoy happy marriages with a figure of 10 and that reinforces the council's theory that job satisfaction makes for a happier person and an enduring marriage.

Being a dentist, a probation officer or a vicar can be hazardous for marriages because caring about other people's problems leads to a certain amount of neglect of one's partner.

Relating to Marriage, National Marriage Guidance Council Bookshop, Little Church Street, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV59 5JL, £5.95.

'Million' children in danger of sex abuse

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

More than a million children in Britain can expect to be sexually assaulted by the age of 15, according to a report by an educational psychologist published yesterday.

A MORI poll showed that one in ten adults had been sexually assaulted as children, but even that figure could be too low, and in another recent survey, in London, one in five adults reported being abused either as children or teenagers. Most of the victims, particularly the younger ones, never told anyone. In the cases where children reported the abuse they were often not believed.

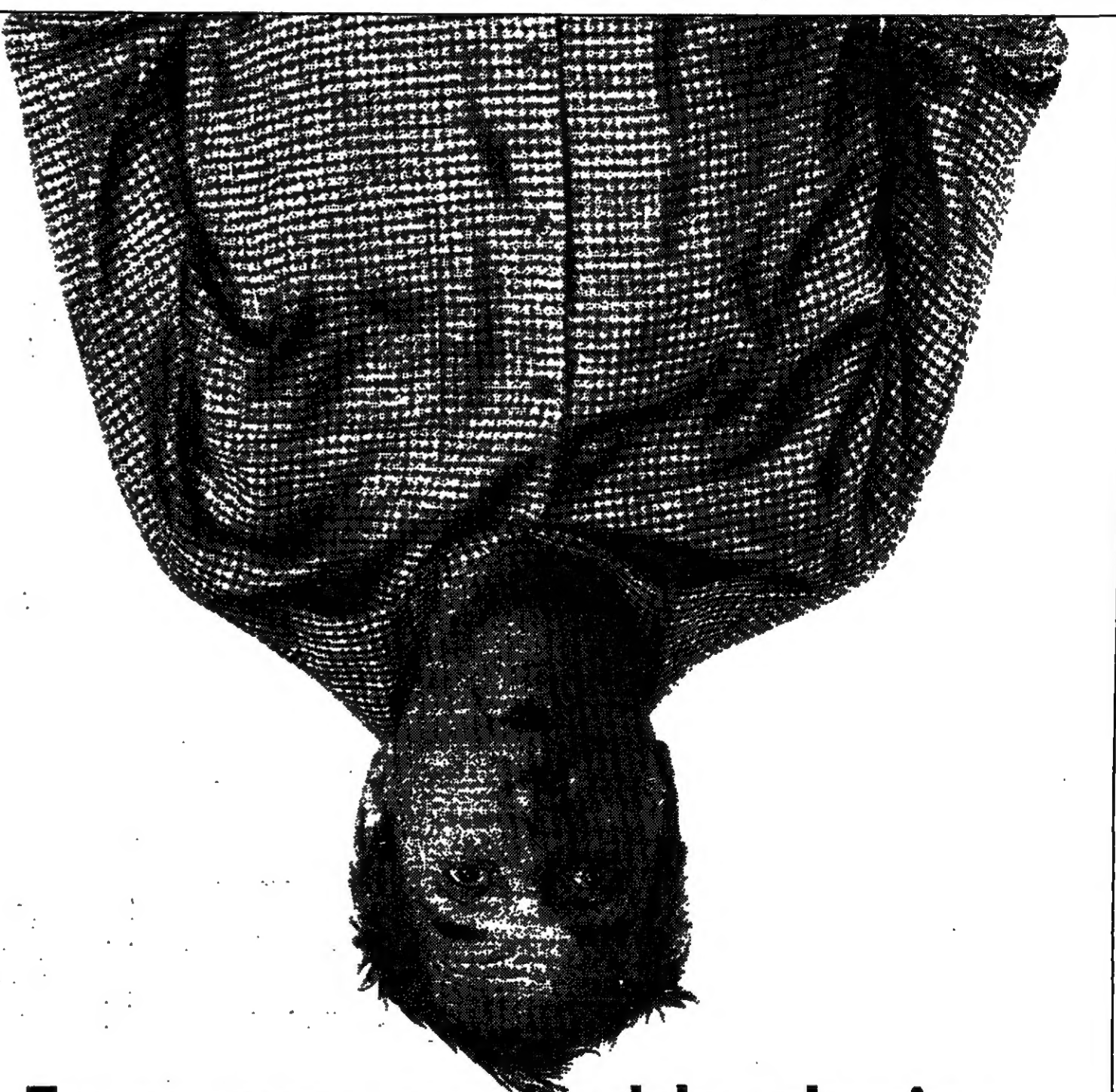
Preventing Child Sexual Assault, the first guide of its kind in Britain, said that 75 per cent of assaults on children were committed by someone the knew, such as a neighbour, friend or family member. "Therefore, telling children to beware only of strangers makes them more vulnerable," the report said.

The author, Mrs Michele Elliott, an educational psychologist and director of the Child Assault Prevention Programme, said: "We have taught children to listen and obey all adults without question, to be polite and not say 'no'. We have to teach children that there are exceptions to every day rules."

Preventing Child Sexual Assault, a practical guide to talking with children (Michele Elliott, Bedford Square Press/NCVO, Macdonald & Evans Distribution Services, Enver Road, Plymouth PL6 7PZ, £2.20).

Spurned whale

Loss of sex appeal may be a reason why a 50ft sperm whale beached itself near Skegness, Lincolnshire, miles north of its usual territory. It is believed that it could no longer keep its females and was beaten to the borders of its feeding ground by younger rivals.



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PARLIAMENT MARCH 4 1985

The return to work • Counting the cost • Ulster security

Coal must recover swiftly from damaging strike

COAL DISPUTE

It was a great pity the Labour Party had not used its influence with the National Union of Mineworkers to suggest it accepted the compromise settlement to the coal strike worked out at Aca's last October. Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said in the Commons after making a statement on the proposed return to work.

He added that the Labour Party had never officially criticized Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, for making no move towards a settlement.

He was replying to Mr Stanley Orme, Cynffwrdd Opposition spokesman for energy, who was laughing when he said the fortune and tenacity of those in the coalfields had the admiration and support of the Labour Party.

Mr Walker began his statement by reporting the decision of the NUM delegate conference on Sunday to call for a return to work on Tuesday.

He said: The Government regrets that this unjustified dispute, which has taken place without a ballot, has done so much damage to miners, to mining communities and to the coal industry. Without this dispute, the industry would have received £800 million of capital investment during the past year; miners' pay would have been substantially above average industrial earnings; a thousand firms would have been persuaded to convert to coal; export orders would have been obtained; and any miner in a pit facing closure would have been given the opportunity of continuing to work in

the industry or of taking advantage of early retirement provisions more generous than those available in any other industry.

The dispute has inflicted heavy damage on the coal industry, and on those companies which supply that industry with plant and machinery.

However, during the period of this dispute, industry at large was able to obtain the energy supplies it required. There were no power cuts due to the dispute, and there are still nearly 12 million tonnes of coal stocks at Britain's power stations.

It would like to express the full Government's appreciation to all those people whose efforts have ensured that Britain's energy supplies have continued to be available.

I believe the country would also like to thank the police, who, throughout this dispute, have ensured that organised mob picketing did not deprive people of their freedom to go to their place of work. Sadly, during the dispute, 1,391 police officers have been injured.

It is now vital that the coal industry swiftly returns to normal working and recovers from the damage of the past 12 months.

The National Coal Board have stated that obtaining full safety in all pits is their first priority, so that production can be restored.

Both the National Coal Board and the Government hope that the coal industry will now take full advantage of the considerable opportunities available both at home and abroad.

Mr Orme said: On Tuesday over 100,000 members of the NUM go back to work after months of inactivity. The Government has been persuaded to convert to coal; export orders would have been obtained; and any miner in a pit facing closure would have been given the opportunity of continuing to work in

both for the miners and the industry.

Why did the Government not accept the proposal from the NUM that it was prepared to sign and implement the full Nocola agreement, and when Mr Walker himself said on February 4: "If the NUM wish to accept it, there could be a settlement today or tomorrow."

Until the modified colliery review procedure is in motion all pits will remain open. The Nocola general secretary has said that the modified review procedure can be put into place only if the NUM are parties to the agreement.

What was the Government's attitude to the crucial issue of victimisation as there were

facilitating the means to arrive at a negotiated agreement as that can be the only way forward.

Mr Walker: The figure given at the beginning of Mr Orme's statement is totally wrong and must have been obtained from Mr Scargill, which explains the inaccuracy.

There had been a further basis for a settlement in the document produced after talks between the NCB and the TUC. He could not give Mr Scargill's quote on this document because it would be unparliamentary.

The cost of the dispute was complicated and had to be carefully examined. It is nothing compared to the cost if any government decided that it should make a totally unreasonable demand and used a lock to support it, that that demand should be met.

I share the admiration for people with a sense of loyalty to their union. I also admire those people in the NUM who decided to have a ballot and worked throughout the strike.

Mr Michael Morris (Northampton, South, C): It is not deplorable that Mr Orme and Mr Hattersley on the NUM programme today, both refused to put forward a proposition that today is the right day for wounds to be healed.

There are 60,000 men in industry dependent on the coal industry who equally ought to be considered in the difficult times that there will be ahead.

Mr Walker: This dispute has been totally unjustified. The important thing is for investment in the industry, for that investment to be used wisely, for markets that have been lost to be regained, and for

unity in mining communities and the NUM to be restored.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, said: I congratulate Mr Walker on distancing himself from the worthwhile investment school of thought about the events of this last year. The only worthwhile investment will be if all parties recognize the lessons of this dispute.

The lesson for union is that a politically motivated strike dependent on intimidation rather than ballots will not work; for the coal board it is that arrogant, high-handed management will not work; and for the Government that to show money at individuals in general redundancy payments is no substitute for dealing with the social and economic problems of the communities affected by pit closures.

Mr Walker: It is wrong for a union to involve itself in a political dispute, particularly without a ballot. Where a pit has to close, as they have always closed under all governments, for economic reasons, this coal board and Government have done far more than any previous government to see that there will be an instrument which will bring new jobs and enterprise to mining communities and give early retirement provision on a more generous scale than ever conceived.

In any decent tradition dealing with an industrial problem in a civilized way, the Government and coal board should claim full credit.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thames Valley, C): Will he try to encourage the necessary changes towards low cost, large scale production in two main ways.

First, will he try to get difficult and necessary decisions taken away from the television screen and into

the hands of decentralized local NCB management? Second, will he put some real political and financial power behind the NCB enterprise company so that it can develop alternative jobs for miners?

Mr Walker: It is important that all negotiations on the future of the pits, both in terms of positive management policies and the need to close pits that are no longer economic, should be discussed with all the knowledge obtainable at local and regional level. I place great importance on the activities and success of the local enterprise company.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesham, Lab): After spending £5,000 million of taxpayers' money and launching the full apparatus of the state, police, magistrates, judges, media and army, the Government has already failed. The miners have totally failed to win the support of a majority of the miners for the policy of the Cabinet. Without goodwill, which is wholly lacking, there is no future for the coal industry.

The miners' struggle, backed by their families and under the leadership of the NUM, has given hope to millions of people and millions of friends of the miners and their communities.

When history comes to be written, sooner than the Cabinet wants to realize, this struggle will be seen to be a turning-point in the battle against monetarism and the attack on full employment.

Mr Walker: Of the people with militant views who have taken part in this dispute, there is no one to whose views I show less respect than Mr Benn. Compared with this Government, when he had responsibility for this industry his record

was appalling. His only enthusiasm for this dispute has been his enthusiasm for the miners' views he holds.

Mr Cecil Franks (Barrow and Furness, C): Will he consider the future privatisation of the mining industry?

Mr Walker: The important thing is to get it restored to its present position of considerable insolvency and damage. No immediate consideration is being given to privatisation. Mr Allen Mackay (Barnsley, West and Penistone, Lab): An amnesty would be one of the most peace-making issues he could put his finger on.

Mr Walker: I am quite certain, from the manner in which the management of the coal board has already acted, that people are involved in minor cases and where there has not been serious physical injury to coal board employees or considerable damage to their property and machinery, that there is no desire on the part of the board other than to employ people who are decent.

Mr Anthony Farel (Stockport, C): On the question of an amnesty, the vast majority of people in this country are decent and law-abiding and they have been appalled by what they have seen on TV and read in the papers. They would be equally appalled if they were now to see that night is right.

Mr Walker: The majority of this House take that view as well.

Mr Speaker: (Mr Bernard Weatherill) turned down a request for an emergency debate by Mr David Nallist (Coventry South East, Lab) on the fate of the miners sacked during the dispute.

Growing role of business sponsorship

THE ARTS

Business sponsorship of the arts, which has risen from £500,000 in 1975 to £15 million this year, and is still increasing, has been accompanied by an 18 per cent increase in Government funding in real terms, Mr William Waldegrave, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said in the Commons during a question time.

Mr Norman Buchan, Labour spokesman on the arts, however, said that the arts had been grossly underfunded and added that that was the reason for almost all

theatres would be meeting tomorrow (Tuesday) to consider the crisis in the business sponsorship of the arts.

Mr Waldegrave said that the business sponsorship percentage scheme had been proving extremely popular and during its first six months had produced about £2.5 million of new sponsorship.

Mr Sydney Chapman (Chipping Barnet, C) said the recent distribution of Sir Peter Hall and others showed the need for the Government to get out of the arts, and to let the politics of arts funding. The best way to do that would be to encourage, through tax concessions, the giving of arts funding of the kind which the Government and Mr Waldegrave agreed that the

Government had made various tax concessions, but private donations could never really replace the need for subsidy, although it was a useful adjunct.

Mr Tony Bank (Newham, North-West, Lab): It is surprising that Sir Peter Hall and others should find the Arts Council a political body, given that it is run by Tories and that the Arts Minister worships at the altar of monetarism.

Mr Waldegrave: The Arts Council is not a political body. It is a body set up by Mr Banks to predict how Sir William Rees-Mogg (Chairman of the Arts Council) votes or has voted. The Arts Council is at arms length from the Government and that is how it should be.

Views differ on Bishop of Durham

THE CHURCH

Words used by people in positions of authority had to be very much chosen if they were not to be very much misinterpreted.

Mr Robert Jones (West Hertfordshire, C), who had previously asked for statistics about the number of clergy receiving remuneration in the Diocese of Durham, said: It is not numbers that count but quality of leadership in the Church. There is widespread dismay among lay members of the Church of England on the quality of leadership given by the Bishop of Durham with his constant espousal of belief which are not those of the Christian Church.

Sir William Waldegrave, the Second Church Estates Commissioner, said: I think it might be helpful if I sent him a copy of a remarkable speech made by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the doctrine debate at the General Synod of February 13. I think the general message is one he would approve of.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab): It is not just the House of Commons stopped messing around with the internal affairs of the Anglican Church. Many of us in the Anglican Church think it is time we ought to decide our own affairs without Jews, Methodists, Muslims and all sorts of other people

interfering in the internal affairs of the Anglican Church.

Sir William Waldegrave: He undoubtedly reflects a point of view quite widely shared in the Church.

Mr Marilyn Rees (Leeds, South and Morley, Lab): The Bishop of Durham served in Leeds before he went to Durham. Last week I asked people whether Muslim or anything else - what they thought of the Bishop of Durham and I was told the chap shows he cares for the people of Durham and whatever his political views, that is a very good thing for a clergyman.

Sir William Waldegrave: I would certainly not want to enter into comment.

TERRORISM

Security arrangements in Northern Ireland were now being urgently re-examined following the Provisional IRA attack on Newry police station last Thursday, Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said when making a statement in the Commons on that attack, in which nine police officers died, and incidents in which two members of the security forces died.

No building can be made impenetrable (he said) and the risks faced by the security forces in Northern Ireland are well understood. I have already approved a capital expenditure programme for police buildings between £20 million and £25 million in the next three years, including a new police station in Newry.

We shall now look carefully and urgently at possible further measures for the protection of buildings and at all the procedures designed to forestall attacks of this kind.

These attacks on Protestant and Catholic members of the security forces show once again the callous savagery of the terrorists. This House will want to send out a message: we must not and will not bow to terrorists. The terrorists will not win.

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said: The IRA's latest attack on Newry police station is a message of murder for any political objective. Any cause is degraded and disgraced when pursued at the expense of broken bodies and broken families.

Mr Hurd said that by a steady adherence to publicly proclaimed objectives they would gradually make progress and finally achieve success.

Mr Hurd: It is true that the security forces face the terrorists and also a series of generalized criticisms, sometimes made in good faith, sometimes in bad faith by those they are seeking to protect as well as those seeking to destroy them. I hope that one side effect of these tragedies will be to concentrate the minds of people away from

consider calmly all measures. Political progress is certainly essential, but I do not think it would regard that as a substitute for robust security policy.

The fact of the matter is that those with whom we are dealing in this dispute are not interested in, and would not be appeased by, discussions or political concessions made in that direction.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP) said that the only rational hope of eventually seeing the end of such events was to persist on the basis of a policy of deterrence. The Prime Minister last November.

Mr Hurd said that by a steady adherence to publicly proclaimed objectives they would gradually make progress and finally achieve success.

Mr Hurd: It is true that the security forces face the terrorists and also a series of generalized criticisms, sometimes made in good faith, sometimes in bad faith by those they are seeking to protect as well as those seeking to destroy them. I hope that one side effect of these tragedies will be to concentrate the minds of people away from

unhelpful and inaccurate generalizations about the reality which faces everyone in Northern Ireland.

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Union 'are misleading teachers'

WALES

Teachers had not been misled in the current pay dispute by the Government but by the leaders of their own unions, Mr John Stradling Thomas, Minister of State for Wales, said during Commons questions.

So far, industrial action in Wales had been limited to a half day strike last Tuesday by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers. He deplored this action because it could only have the effect of interfering with the preparation of pupils for this summer's public examinations.

It was for the local education authorities to do what they could to minimise the effects of the dispute on pupils.

Mr Keith Raffan (Delyn, C): By taking strike action, teachers harm the education of children and also their own professional status. The only way to enhance that status is to accept a much closer link between performance and pay.

Mr Stradling Thomas: I have always been taught by educationists that

the finest method of teaching is by precept and the teachers, in taking this action, are setting a bad example.

The teachers have gone in for this disruption although, as the Prime Minister has pointed out, they pay has kept pace with inflation since 1979.

Mr Ian Grist (Cardiff Central, C): While most teachers give sterling service, from recent example they might have learned that blind loyalty to the leaders of their unions will repay them ill.

Mr Stradling Thomas: Underlying this strike there is the possibility of a fear of assessment. There are very few professions or other occupations where continuous assessment of performance is not something that is inherent in the occupation, particularly ours as MPs.

Mr Edward Rowlands (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, Lab): After the miners, does he consider the teachers of Wales are the enemies within?

Mr Stradling Thomas: Most certainly not. Most teachers, particularly in Wales, are giving excellent service and are vital to the future of this country.

Mr Dafydd Thomas (Meirionnydd Nant Conwy, Pl C): Will he give an assurance that if the teachers' strike lasts a year the Government will not spend the first six months telling the country it has nothing to do with it.

and the second six months trying to prevent negotiations?

Mr Stradling Thomas: I do not accept the basic premise of the question. The answer is no.

Mr Ronald Davies (Carmarthen, Lab): The Government's action in response to the teachers' dispute has already been set by the policies it followed in respect of the miners' dispute.

How else can he explain a situation where the Government, giving statements which are clearly misleading the teachers' unions about Government intentions, and where it is doing nothing other than sowing bitterness and confusion in the minds of teachers?

Mr Stradling Thomas: I do not accept his premise. The Government has been clear about this. There is an offer on the table. It is not the Government which is misleading the teachers, or the management, but the leaders of their own union.

If they are to pursue the claim in the way they are doing it can only mean less teachers or less resources for other vital education needs.

Mr Stefan Terlecki (Cardiff West, C): There are no winners in this strike, only losers, and the losers are the children. Surely one cannot expect a 12 per cent increase when inflation is 5 per cent?

Mr Stradling Thomas: I agree.

Nuclear power:2

Scotland makes out case against PWRs

While the French PWR network will be able to help the Central Electricity Generating Board during any disruption to supplies once the cross-channel link is complete it has been the Scottish nuclear stations at Hunterston in Ayrshire which have provided help during the miners' strike.

The output from Hunterston "B" has been of considerable support to the board, but ironically it has proved that the advanced gas cooled reactor (AGR) has developed into a reliable system.

While the board says that the adoption of the PWR will not close the AGR option it is that point which the South-of-Scotland Electricity Board has emphasized at the Sizewell inquiry.

Mr Donald Miller, chairman of the South of Scotland board, said: "We can see no real reason to go down the PWR route now that AGRs have been proven at Hunterston and at Hinkley Point. We just do not accept that the infrastructure to build future AGRs will remain if the CEBG is given permission to build a PWR."

As the Sizewell inquiry into whether PWR (pressurized water cooled reactor) should be built goes on, Scotland has proved the reliability of the advanced gas cooled reactor at Hunterston. In the second of two articles DAVID YOUNG, Energy Correspondent, assesses the Scottish experience.

"Neither do we accept that there are any export potential for a British PWR. The French will be going out to win any orders to keep their own industry at work and it will be years before the British PWR can be proved in operation."

However, there is little doubt that the Sizewell inquiry on its successful operation of the AGRs at Hunterston was impressive and an embarrassment to the CEBG.

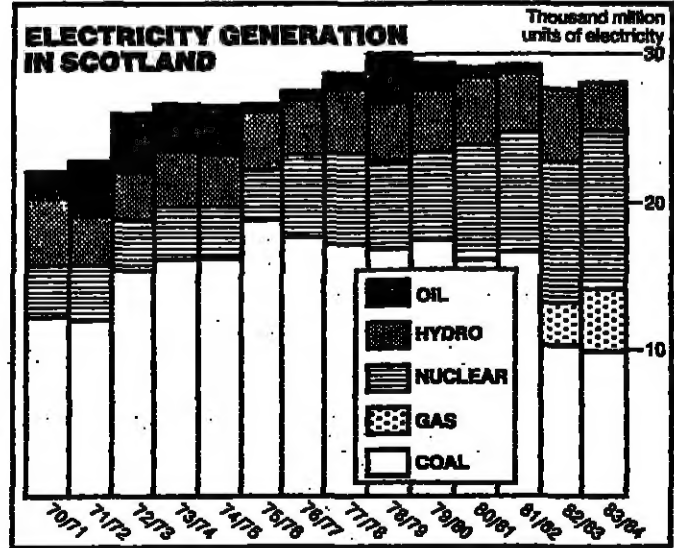
The CEBG has since attempted to contradict the SSB's economic arguments, but the matter may still be crucial to the inspector's decision.

The SSB says that it was not an objector, but had given evidence at the invitation of the inspector. Because of that it was unable to cross-examine the CEBG witnesses on its economic case while at the same time allowing itself to be cross-examined.

While the CEBG has said that it is committed to maintaining the AGR option to the end of the century, the Scottish case is that no country the size of Britain can afford to keep together two separate industrial infrastructures for two different nuclear options.

Mr Miller said: "The adoption of the PWR would effectively end AGR building and this could come at a time when the AGR is clearly demonstrating its effectiveness."

SSB has regularly been achieving maximum output from its AGRs at Hunterston, as well as high levels of efficiency from the adjoining 21-year-old Magnox station which is rated as the world's fourth most efficient nuclear station, with 50 per cent of Scotland's power being gener-



ated by nuclear stations.

The Torness station is nearing completion and will give Scotland capacity to meet any extra demand from its own industrial users and to send supplies across the border.

The argument that more of a PWR can be factory built, and thus ensure the minimizing of difficulties associated with building high-technology equipment on site, now also applies to the AGR.

"We have developed a method

Pilot strangled his wife and dumped body in lake, counsel tells court

An airline pilot strangled his wife, an air hostess, during an argument about her lover, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday. She came at him "like a tiger" and he throttled her to death, it is alleged.

He then tied her up in a "parcel" ready to move at night, Mr Anthony Hacking, QC, for the prosecution, said.

Peter Hogg, aged 36, of Mead Road, Cranleigh, Surrey, denies murdering his wife Margaret on October 17, 1976. Her weighted body was found in West Water, Cumbria, in February last year. Mr Hacking told the jury that Mrs Hogg was having an affair with Mr Graham Ryan, whom she met 10 years after marrying Mr Hogg in 1963. "He became her lover and their relationship was a serious and prolonged love affair which both the defendant and Mr Ryan's wife knew about."

On Sunday, October 17, 1976, Mr and Mrs Hogg had a furious argument in their upstairs bedroom about the affair. Mr Hogg was then aged 48 and she was aged 37. Mr Hacking said: "According to Hogg, she came at him like a tiger scratching him all over his face with her fingernails and then kicked him. He punched her hard in the face, catching her with his signet ring above the eye which poured blood."

She came at him, again, punching and kicking. At this point he lost control, got her by



Mr Hogg: Tied wife in parcel, QC says.

the throat and squeezed hard until she stopped squirming. He had strangled her to death. She was dead before she slumped forward on to the floor.

Mr Hacking told the jury that blood was pouring from Mrs Hogg's head over the floorboards. Mr Hogg's immediate reaction was "horror plus a realization that he would have to do something before she suffocated."

He got some flex and rope and trussed her up, then made a parcel of her with some plastic material.

He then locked the bedroom door with her body inside until it was safe to move her into the boot of his car at night.

"Obviously he had to dispose of her body. He knew the Lake District well and he decided the safest way to get rid of her body without trace was to drop it, loaded down with concrete, into the deepest lake he knew, West Water, the deepest lake in England."

Mr Hogg had organized the disposal of his wife's body with "clinical efficiency and skill."

But he overlooked two factors which led to her identification: he wrapped her in plastic sheets containing the name and address of a Guildford firm, and forgot to remove her wedding ring, which bore the words "Margaret 15.11.63 Peter". Mr Hacking said.

The day after his wife died, Mr Hogg "began to put an alibi together to disguise his real plan for the disposal of her body."

He arranged an appointment with the headmaster of another son, David, and drove the 130 miles to the school at Taunton with his wife's body in the boot.

Assuming everyone would think he was spending the night at Taunton, he drove 325 miles north to West Water, arriving at the lakeside at midnight, where he disposed of the body.

Mr Hacking said Mr Hogg did not report his wife's death to the coroner and he had pleaded guilty to a charge of obstructing the coroner.

The hearing continues today.

In the second of two articles on Indonesia, STEPHEN TAYLOR reports from Jakarta on the Suharto Government's approach to relations with China.

There is a growing sense in Jakarta that 160 million Indonesians can no longer ignore 980 million Chinese, if for no other than pragmatic, economic considerations. After almost two decades of frozen relations with Peking, Indonesia is resuming direct trade with Communist China.

This slight thaw between the two countries was underlined last month by an invitation to China to the 30th anniversary observance in April of the first Afro-Asian conference in Bandung, Java, which gave birth to the non-aligned movement.



Commenting on this significant gesture, Mr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, said: "We are unfreezing relations for this occasion."

There is no suggestion that Jakarta is ready to reopen diplomatic ties, indeed some foreign observers believe there is little likelihood of that in President Suharto's time. Indeed as Indonesia gains in

confidence in its new, assertive role in international affairs, there is an increasing tendency towards rivalry with China.

Relations were cut by Jakarta after the abortive 1965 communist coup in which, it claimed, Peking was involved. Subsequent turbulence saw the fall of the Sukarno regime and the rise of President Suharto's West-leaning administration.

Advertisements blacked out

A certain Sinophobia is still perceptible. Visitors to Indonesia are issued a customs warning that all writings in Chinese characters are banned, while even advertisements in Chinese are blacked out in international magazines along with articles on Indonesia deemed contentious.

Ethnic Chinese, although less than 3 per cent of the population, wield enormous economic influence and are resented by many poorer Indonesians.

China itself is regarded by the country's powerful military establishment as Indonesia's main strategic threat and General Benny Murdani, Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, spoke recently of Peking as being a source of concern because of its growing economic power.

This attitude contrasts markedly with Indonesia's Asian partners which see China's opening up as a trade windfall that can only benefit



Before the break: Former President Sukarno (right) with Chou En-Lai in 1965.

Indonesia is also the odd-man-out in Asean for its comparatively good relations with Vietnam, and Mr Kusumaatmadja is a welcome visitor in Hanoi even when, as recently, he wants to discuss steps leading to a Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia.

It was the Foreign Minister who in December enunciated

the reasons for resuming direct trade with China, overcoming even the reservations of the military: "We have to open up. It is a big potential market. We cannot ignore it."

The opportunities in China for Indonesia appear to be considerable at a time when it is seeking to reduce dependency on oil, which in recent

years has contributed on average 65 per cent of government revenue and three-quarters of foreign currency earnings but has left the economy vulnerable to price fluctuations.

The recession hit Indonesia late but hard, growth of almost eight per cent in 1981-1982 slumping to two per cent in 1982-1983. The Government has in the past two years gone a long way to satisfy its backers in the World Bank, devaluing the rupiah by 28 per cent, rescheduling \$25 billion in public sector projects and reforming the banking system. In January, it was announced that Indonesia would not seek to reschedule its \$23 billion foreign debt.

Liquid gas exports

Exports of liquid natural gas increased by 31.8 per cent last year, making Indonesia the world's largest exporter and offsetting the effect of the oil slump.

Initially, the Chinese market is expected to provide an outlet for more traditional exports - plywood, tin, rubber and coffee. But some economists believe that in the long term China could provide a platform for Indonesia's resource-blessed economy to really take off.

"We have been saying for 20 years that the potential is truly enormous," one economist said. "It is certainly not lack of resources that is holding it back."

Concluded.

Visit to Britain fills Glemp with hope

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Cardinal Josef Glemp, Primate of Poland, ended his visit to Britain yesterday full of praise for the country, its people and its churches.

"Whatever I saw filled me with hope," he said at Heathrow airport. "I saw wonderful people at all levels of the social ladder."

He said he knew before he came that the Christian Church was alive and continuously growing. "Now I am even more aware that God blesses his church and gives the hierarchy wisdom and its believers fidelity."

The cardinal, who has spent 12 days visiting Polish communities in England, Wales and Scotland, had a half hour's

private meeting with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, at Sir Geoffrey's home. He is likely to visit Poland in the spring. The venue of the meeting was said to emphasize the unofficial nature of their conversation.

Commenting on the state of the Polish communities in Britain, Cardinal Glemp said he was pleased to note that Poles were respected for their contribution to society.

Cardinal Basil Hume, who is expected to make a return visit to Poland, told him that the church in Poland was widely esteemed in Britain "as a witness to Christian truth and values, and as a defender of human dignity."

Leading member of synod resigns to become RC

By our Religious Affairs Correspondent

A leading lay member of the General Synod of the Church of England has resigned to become a Roman Catholic. It is the second resignation from the synod for that reason in the past few months.

Mrs Frances Flatman, aged 39, who is married to the Vicar of St Mary and St John, Cowley, Oxford, was a prominent member of the Anglo-Catholic group in the synod. She is to be received into the Roman Catholic Church at Blackfriars, Oxford, on March 18.

Last year, Canon John Tinsley, who represented the clergy of the York diocese in the general synod, also resigned and became a Roman Catholic.

At the same time, a prominent former member, Mr Robert Edwards, has

announced his conversion to Roman Catholicism. He had been a member of the Church Assembly and of the synod for 20 years until 1980, and he was until recently vice-chairman and treasurer of the London diocesan fund. He and his wife Barbara were received into the Roman Catholic Church in Streatham, south-west London, last month.

Mr Edwards is quoted in the *Church Times* as saying: "I have always believed that the Roman Catholic Church is the one true Church, but until recently I still believed the Church of England to be part of the Catholic Church."

Mrs Flatman said yesterday that the synod's recent decision to proceed with the ordination of women was one factor which influenced her.

Find-a-don system for business

Industrialists will shortly be able to key into a national computer database to find academics and polytechnics to help them with scientific and technological problems.

The first information bank, listing the skills, knowledge and facilities on offer in higher education, will be ready by the end of the year and is a direct result of a report commissioned by Mrs Margaret Thatcher from the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development.

Mr Michael Tobert, managing director of Cartmill Publishing, a subsidiary of Longman, which is setting up the system, said his company had found great interest from industrialists. "Universities are going to become increasingly important in improving the technical fabric of our companies," he said.

Fens drained by computer

The first radio and computer-controlled land drainage and flood control system in Europe has started operating in the Fens of East Anglia.

It has been installed at a cost of £200,000 by the North Level Internal Drainage Board to prevent the flooding of more than 80,000 acres of low-lying land between Peterborough and Wisbech in Cambridgeshire, much of it below sea-level and originally drained by Cornelius Vermuyden.

Black list of drugs has 'loopholes'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Family doctors' leaders believe they have found loopholes in the Government's National Health Service drugs black list that would allow general practitioners to continue prescribing some of the banned drugs after April 1.

The loopholes mean determined doctors could "severely dent" the black list, probably reducing still further the Government's anticipated £75 million savings. Dr Peter Enoch, deputy chairman of the British Medical Association's family doctors committee, said.

The black list, which gives the Government's plan legal force, contains for many of the 1,800 banned drugs the brand name and the drug's ingredient. But some drugs are black-listed by their brand name only. For example, Laxoberal, a laxative fairly commonly prescribed for the elderly, is banned by name. But its ingredient, sodium picosulphate, is not.

Dr Enoch said: "A doctor who was determined enough to go through the black list of 1,800 drugs could probably find other examples."

Prescriptions for those drugs on the health service could end into the Government's planned savings.

A Department of Health and Social Security spokesman said: "There may well be one or two such examples, but it is unlikely to have a significant impact on the savings planned."

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PROSPECTUS 2ND JULY 1984

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DEFINITIONS: 2. In this prospectus, "applicant" means an eligible person who has applied for the plan. "Holder" means the person who is entitled to receive the payments from the plan. "Payments" means the payments made to the holder from the plan.

ELIGIBILITY: 3. A person is eligible to apply for the plan if he or she is a resident of the United Kingdom and is at least 16 years of age at the time of application.

APPLICATION: 4. An applicant must complete an application form and send it to the National Savings Office, Durham. The application form must be completed in full and must be accompanied by the required payment.

INTEREST: 5. The interest on the plan is calculated on the basis of the current rate of interest. The interest is paid to the holder at the end of each year.

REDEMPTION: 6. The plan can be redeemed at any time. The holder will receive the full value of the plan plus any interest earned.

CHANGES TO THE PROSPECTUS: 7. The prospectus may be amended from time to time. The holder will be notified of any changes.

GENERAL NOTES: 8. The plan is a long-term investment. The holder should be prepared to hold the plan for at least five years.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: 9. For more information about the plan, contact the National Savings Office, Durham.

CONTACT: 10. The National Savings Office, Durham, is the main contact for the plan.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 11. The plan is subject to the terms and conditions set out in the prospectus.

DISCLAIMER: 12. The prospectus is not a contract. It is only a guide to the plan.

NOTES: 13. The plan is a long-term investment. The holder should be prepared to hold the plan for at least five years.

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CONTACT: 15. The National Savings Office, Durham, is the main contact for the plan.

YEARLY PLAN APPLICATION

THE SAVINGS CERTIFICATE OFFICE, YEARLY PLAN SECTION, DURHAM DH99 1NS.

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3 Other Payments to Yearly Plan: If payments are already being made to Yearly Plan on behalf of the above, please give the Yearly Plan numbers.

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Quoting Reference

10-21-99 22577009

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Please enter full Name and Address of Bank

and debit my/our account accordingly

Name of account to be debited

Account Number

Bank Branch Code

Signature of Account Holder(s)

Date

Notes may be added to account instructions to change standing order to certain types of account other than current accounts.

10

Gaullists rule out pact with National Front to defeat Left at polls

The Gaullist RPR party has finally come out firmly against making a pact with the extreme right wing National Front in next Sunday's local elections or in parliamentary elections next year.

The RPR has always claimed not always convincingly, that it would not be willing to enter into a national agreement with the Front. But it had left open the possibility of local agreements. Indeed, it sometimes sanctioned them, as in the municipal by-election in Dreux in 1983, when the previously insignificant National Front won a spectacular 17 per cent of the vote.

M. Jacques Chirac the RPR leader, now insists that there will be no alliance with the National Front, even locally. M. Jacques Toubon, the party's secretary-general declared at the weekend that the RPR would rather risk seeing a left-wing candidate elected, by maintaining an RPR candidate in the second voting round, than step down in favour of a better-placed National Front candidate.

Leading Opposition figures hardened their stand against the National Front. Even M. Raymond Barre, who only a few months ago insisted that the front leader M. Jean-Marie Le Pen, should not be treated as a

From Diana Geddes, Paris

"bogey-man" and invited him for talks, has warned voters against giving their support to "such loud mouths".

No one has taken up the challenge thrown down by M. Philippe Séguin, the Gaullist deputy for the Vosges, and a leading "young Turk" in the RPR, that Opposition leaders should sign a joint undertaking not to govern with the National Front in 1986, if the Opposition wins the elections.

Despite the new public firmness of M. Chirac and his young lieutenant, a few leading Opposition representatives seem reluctant to close the door entirely on eventual National Front support.

M. Claude Labbé, leader of the RPR group in the National Assembly, insisted that the Opposition must "gather up all votes, wherever they come from, in order to chase the left from power".

M. Jean-Claude Gaudin, Marseilles deputy and leader of the centre-right UDF party in the National Assembly, said that if there was any danger of the left winning in Marseilles, he would call on the Opposition candidate to withdraw in favour of a better-placed National Front candidate. The National Front won 21 per cent of the vote in Marseilles in last June's European elections.

In the run-up to Sunday's elections, when the Opposition would normally have been expected to lambast the Government over things like unemployment, rising crime and falling living standards, the National Front has dominated French political debate. The Opposition appears again to have been thrown into disarray, when it should have been riding high.

The National Front won less than 1 per cent of the vote in the last two national elections in 1979 and 1982. Half the cantons take part in elections every three years to vote local representatives on to the "conseils généraux". Now predictions are that it will equal or better the 11 per cent it obtained in the European elections.

The Opposition is convinced that President Mitterrand is doing everything to promote the Front in an attempt to further divide the Opposition.

It was horrified by the President's announcement that he intended to introduce a form of proportional representation into the 1986 parliamentary elections. The National Front predicts that it would win between 70 and 90 in the National Assembly, if complete proportional representation was introduced.

Germans to continue aid to UK miners

From Frank Johnson Bonn

West German union leaders have asked for continued financial help from their members for the families of striking British miners. But they expressed once more the disapproval they have shown throughout the dispute for what they suspect were the strike's wider political aims.

Herr Hans-Jürgen Beck, secretary to Herr Ernst Breit, chairman of the West German Trades Union Federation, sent a letter to member unions in which he wrote: "Even if the strike is finished, it will still be necessary to give our British colleagues material help for some time so that they may overcome the hardship arising from the strike."

"Herr Beck made a pointed reference to Mr Joseph Holmes, and official of the National Union of Mineworkers, who has been in Germany during much of the strike, and to the 'solidarity' groups which Mr Holmes has helped to organize. These, Herr Beck said, were 'more or less disguised attempts to achieve one-sided political capital from the miners' strike'."

Herr Norbert Fischer, treasurer of IG Metall, the country's largest union, also wrote to branches asking for help for the miners' families. "The British miners, who are almost without any income, have to feel that their colleagues in the Federal Republic will not abandon them," he wrote.

● PARIS: In a front-page leading article entitled "unconditional surrender", the left-of-centre *Le Monde* yesterday described the end of the miners' strike as a total victory for the British Government over one of the country's most powerful unions (Diana Geddes writes).

The paper said Mr Arthur Scargill's error "was to have believed that in the game of intransigence he would win against the 'Iron Lady', and that he could, in his own words, 'push back Thatcherism', in that game, one always loses, as others have learnt before him", the paper said.

The miners' return to work marked the end of an era in British trade unionism, it said. Union solidarity no longer played a role in a world of recession and high unemployment.

The Communist daily *L'Humanité* concentrated on Mr Scargill's comment that the end of the strike did not mean that the miners' battle was over, and advised Mrs Margaret Thatcher not to bring out the champagne too quickly at Number 10.

● MADRID: The end of the strike was a big front-page story in most Madrid dailies yesterday.

The Roman Catholic newspaper *La Voz* said the prolonged dispute showed a need for legislation which would make trade unions a party to government decisions affecting labour.

The liberal daily *Diario 16* headlined its report "Thatcher's victory: British coal miners' strike ends".

The headline in the pro-socialist *El País* said: "Thatcher refuses amnesty for the 700 who were sacked: the British miners give in after a year on strike."

The monarchist daily *ABC* led its first news page with the headline: "Unconditional surrender of the British miners: they go back to work tomorrow."

Ya said in a leading article that neither side really tried to negotiate, and added: "While trade unions should not remain entrenched in the position of a veritable counter-authority, neither can they be thrown out of the state."

Poles infuriated by bread price rises

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

To the accompaniment of angry mutterings from food queues, the Polish Government yesterday imposed the first stage of a controversial price rise, pushing up the cost of bread, milk, tea, cheese and other foodstuffs.

Bakeries resembled the kind of theatre, fashionable a decade ago, in which the cast insults the audience and the spectators are given the choice of leaving or joining in the abuse. The price of a large loaf has gone up by 30 per cent and, with little else to pad out the diet, Poles are furious.

Small pieces of paper are usually provided to test the freshness of bread. A soft, cushioned effect indicates that the loaf arrived on the same day. Yesterday customers in the Bracka Street bakery defiantly used their fingers, as if prodding a policeman, and loudly declared that the loaves were fit only for dogs and ministers.

There were however no reports of riots, none of the violence that has in the past greeted price rises and contributed to the toppling or humiliation of Polish governments.

In the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk and in many factories there were heated discussions, but no reported strikes.

Solidarity had called off a planned strike scheduled for last Thursday on the assumption that the Government had withdrawn an announced across-

Rock airport dispute

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

British and Spanish officials yesterday began discussing the future use of Gibraltar's airport, as the countries had promised under the Brussels agreement which led to last month's frontier opening.

Britain wants Spain to lift its restrictions on, flights over the Bay of Algeiras, so that Gibraltar airport can be fully



Peking toast: Lord Young and Vice Premier Mr Li Peng celebrate the contract.

British firm's £61m deal with China

From Mary Lee, Peking

A British firm yesterday signed a \$65.4 million (£61.1 million) deal in Peking to produce dump trucks in China.

The agreement between Avonley International, the Peking Construction Machinery Industrial Corporation and the China National Automotive Industrial Import and Export Corporation was concluded during the visit of the British trade delegation headed by Lord Young, Minister without Portfolio.

The visit has also seen the signing of a protocol document involving Rolls Royce, and two memorandums of intent with Cable and Wireless.

Rolls Royce can look forward

Chilean earthquake toll rises to 124

Santiago (AP) - An earthquake in an 800-mile stretch of central Chile has killed at least 124 people and injured 2,000 the Chilean government said yesterday.

Santiago and the Pacific coast cities of Valparaiso and Vina del Mar, with a combined population of about six million, appeared to be hardest hit by the earthquake on Sunday night.

People camped along the debris in city streets, away from their weakened homes, as dozens of aftershocks rumbled through the region all night and throughout the morning. The authorities said walls in many of the adobe homes were cracked, and might collapse in the aftershocks.

The US National Earthquake Information Centre in Golden, Colorado, said the earthquake measured 7.4 on the Richter scale. Within six hours, Santiago residents had felt about 48 aftershocks, some of them so strong they rocked skyscrapers. Milder tremors continued through the night.

The Chief government spokesman, Señor Francisco Cuadra, announced yesterday that the death toll had risen to 124, counting only newly-found victims in Santiago and Valparaiso. As communications were restored with remote areas, the Government feared the death toll would increase. Officials said that at least 2,000 people were hurt.

Ten people died when the front section of a church



collapsed during Mass in San Bernardo, just outside Santiago. The earthquake shook Santiago for about five minutes.

Officials said the epicentre was 25 miles off the coast, near the city of Algarrobo, 88 miles north-west of Santiago.

In a radio and television address yesterday, President Pinochet announced the appointment of a high-ranking committee to coordinate assistance to the homeless and restore basic services. He called on Chileans to "remain calm as you have done in the last difficult hours, and to show solidarity to your brothers who have been hit by tragedy."

Electrical power was knocked out and telephone lines were jammed making it difficult to gather information. Electricity was restored in Santiago after nearly three hours.

A Santiago police spokesman said there were no serious looting problems, and in Valparaiso the authorities said they would deal severely with looters.

The Government said about 200 seriously injured people were at Santiago's central emergency hospital. But a telephone operator at the hospital said the number was much higher.

People across the Andes in Argentina also felt the earthquake, especially in the foothill cities of Mendoza, San Juan and Tucuman.

Richter scale readings indicate the energy released by the earthquake, as measured by ground motion in seismographs. The scale is open ended, but an earthquake of Magnitude 7 is considered large, capable of widespread, heavy damage, while one of Magnitude 8 is considered a "great" earthquake, capable of tremendous damage.

Britons hurt in Sicilian raid on tourist bus

Palermo (AP) - Four youths brandishing a pistol jumped on a bus carrying 30 British tourists here and robbed them of money and other valuables.

One tourist, Mr Owen Fries, 72, was shot in the right arm after "making a sudden move" during the robbery, police said. Another British man, 80-year-old Mr Arthur Hazen of Tonbridge, was pistol-whipped.

Both were treated at the civic hospital and released and joined the others to continue their Sicilian tour.

The tourists, most of them retired people, were returning to their hotel in Palermo when their bus was intercepted by a car shortly after they entered the city limits.

News agency sacks bosses

Washington (Reuters) - Mr Louis Nogués, president of United Press International, and the agency's financial consultant, Mr Ray Weschler, have been dismissed and the owners are planning to relinquish financial control.

Mr Douglas Ruhe and Mr William Geissler, the Tennessee businessmen who took over UPI in 1982, said they were standing aside to try to attract new capital to revive the faltering news agency.

New Caledonia school boycott

Thio, New Caledonia (AFP) - About 800 Melanesian schoolchildren boycotted schools in this centre of protest against French rule in New Caledonia, after a small bridge and four nickel mine buses had been sabotaged overnight.

Officials of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front, the group which had led independence calls, also announced that "minimum" Kanak education would soon be offered independently of the "official schools".

Avalanche toll

Zermatt (Reuters) - Crews working by torchlight pulled three more dead from snow-buried vehicles to bring to 11 the death toll from Switzerland's worst avalanche in 15 years.

Bomb defused

Vlissingen, Netherlands (AP) - Dutch heavy demolition specialists defused a 250-pound Second World War British bomb

Heart file lost

Salt Lake City (AFP) - The 1,000-page file on the operation which made Barney Clark the first man to receive an artificial heart in December 1982 has been stolen from the University Hospital here.

Cabinet shuffle

Port of Spain (Reuters) - The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr George Chambers, has reshuffled his Cabinet, promoting two staunch supporters, Mr Errol Mahabir and Mr Overland Padmore, to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and National Securities respectively.

Danes strike

Copenhagen - Thousands of Danish workers staged a day of action in support of shorter working hours and better pay.

Visas granted

Giessen, West Germany (AFP) - Seven East Germans who took refuge in the West German embassy in Prague last year have arrived in West Germany after being given visas by the East Berlin authorities.

Horror museum

Peking (Reuters) - The Chinese city of Harbin will build a museum on the site of a Japanese germ warfare research centre where thousands died in experiments on the culture of bacteria for bacteriological warfare during the Japanese occupation.

Sand storm

Key Biscayne, Florida (AP) - A dust storm that began when a woman removed her bathing suit top from a beach escalated into a maelstrom among some 400 rowdy youths which was ended by about 60 police in riot gear.

Thatcher to visit six Asian states

By Our Political Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is to visit six countries in a whirlwind tour of South-East Asia during the Easter parliamentary recess, April 5 to 13.

The Prime Minister was to have visited Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Sri Lanka last autumn, but the trip was cancelled because of the possibility of an all-out docks strike, in addition to the miners' strike.

Brunei and India have now been added to the itinerary. Brunei celebrated its independence last month, and the Sultan invited Mrs Thatcher to visit when he met her at Number 10 in January.

During her visit to Sri Lanka, Mrs Thatcher will attend the inauguration of the Victory Dam and hydro-electric scheme, near Kandy, on April 12. The project has been built by British contractors.

● COLOMBO: The Foreign Ministry yesterday announced that Mrs Thatcher and her husband Denis will visit Sri Lanka from April 11 to 13 as guests of President Jayewardene (Donovan Moldrich writes).

While the main purpose of her visit is to commission the Victory Dam, she will also address Parliament and have talks with the President on matters of bilateral interest.

UN debates Gulf War PoWs

From Zoriana Fysariwsky, New York

Efforts to alleviate the plight of some 60,000 prisoners of war in camps in Iran and Iraq were under way yesterday as the United Nations Security Council prepared for its first debate on the mistreatment of detainees in the four-year-old Gulf War.

The meeting followed a UN report by a group of independent experts which concluded that physical brutality and mental anguish were a way of life in the camps and recommended massive repatriation.

The report departed from the assumption that conditions in the Iranian camps were far worse than in Iraq. Although it found political indoctrination more prevalent in Iran, it strongly suggested that violence against prisoners was greater in the Iraqi camps.

Iraq had been so certain that the inquiry's results would be more favourable to Baghdad

that it initiated a meeting of the Security Council before the findings were released.

Diplomats hoped to put the Council meeting to use by setting up, a mechanism for repatriation. Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, the Secretary General, was understood to be exploring ways of bringing about an exchange of prisoners.

Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, was to open the council's debate. Attempts had been made to persuade Iraq to widen its scope to include other aspects of the conflict.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, Iran warned against any action which would divert attention from the essentially humanitarian issue of the prisoners. It also presented a list of 11 guidelines, including an extension of the mandate of the UN mission, an in-depth investigation to determine the fate of missing persons and the

establishment of guarantees for Iraq to end torture and physical mistreatment.

Diplomats said the report had surpassed expectations and there was enough common ground if pursued quietly to begin a process leading to large-scale repatriation.

● TEHRAN WRANGLE: Britain's wrangle with Iran over claims for damage done to each other's embassies will continue during a visit by a group of Foreign Office officials to Tehran next week (Henry Stanhope writes).

Sources discount an imminent solution. Iran is claiming an estimated \$2 million for damage to its embassy in Princes Gate, stormed by SAS troops at the end of the siege there five years ago. Britain has a smaller claim in respect of its own building in Iran which was damaged by students during the Iranian revolution.

Reagan plea for release of MX cash

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

President Reagan yesterday sent Congress a report saying that funding for the controversial MX intercontinental ballistic missile was essential if progress were to be made in the arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union beginning in Geneva next Tuesday.

He said the continued build-up of Soviet ICBMs, notably the SS19, threatened to provide Moscow with an important strategic advantage unless United States modernized its own force by replacing ageing Minuteman missiles with the ten-warhead MX.

The report marked the climax of big campaign by the Administration to win approval from a reluctant Congress for the production of 21 of the giant missiles.

The campaign got under way last week with a rare joint appearance of Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary of State, before the Senate armed services committee.

Last year Congress approved \$1.5 billion (£1.3 billion) for production of 21 missiles, but said it could not be spent without the sanction of the Senate and House of Representatives.

It is this money which the President is now seeking. The President is also seeking funds for an additional 43 missiles in his fiscal 1986 budget, which will be debated later in the year. Altogether the Administration plans to build 223 missiles.

Congressional leaders and administration officials concede that the battle over MX will be close, but there are growing indications that the President will eventually win.

Meanwhile, a Soviet delegation led by Mr Vladimir Shcherbitsky, a member of the Politburo, began a 10-day visit here yesterday by holding talks with congressional leaders. The delegation is due to see President Reagan on Thursday.

Afrikaner student tarred and feathered

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The hallowed, oak-shaded quadrangles of Stellenbosch University in the Cape, the most famous seat of Afrikaner learning, are echoing to allegations of barbaric initiation rites and vendettas against students who dare to expose them.

The scandal began when a reporter on the university newspaper, *Die Matie*, using a photograph of one of the Wilgenhof students' residence, subjected freshmen to various initiation rituals.

He was found out and nine Wilgenhof students burst into his room one night and forced him into the boot of a car. He was driven to a sports ground several miles away, stripped and covered in black paint.

Chunks of his hair were plastered to his body. His assailants then drove off, leaving the naked student to find his way home.

In an apparently related incident, his room-mate, was

beaten senseless last Friday by unknown attackers and dumped in a river near the university. He is now in hospital with a suspected fractured skull.

Last week's issue of *Die Matie* carried detailed descriptions of alleged freshmen initiation rituals. In one, called "the gallows", students had pillowcases pulled over their heads and were given the impression that they were hoisted in a tree, dangling from a greased stick. They then had to sing a song or tell a joke.

In another, known as "the tunnel", blindfolded freshmen were made to believe they were about to be pulled through a narrow tunnel filled with water.

The nine students involved in the tarring-and-feathering incident are to appear before a university disciplinary committee. The local police say the second attack is being treated as a case of assault which could be changed to one of attempted murder.

Alfonsin places trusted ally at head of Army

From Douglas Tweedale Buenos Aires

President Raúl Alfonsín has replaced the head of the Military Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointed a trusted military ally as head of the Army. A Defence Ministry spokesman said the changes had been planned since last year.

General Manuel Fernandez Torres resigned yesterday and was replaced by the former Army Chief of Staff, General Ricardo Pianta.

According to press reports, General Fernandez Torres was not on the best of terms with President Alfonsín's radical party administration.

Palme demands British action on acid rain

Reykjavik (Reuters) - Mr Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, said yesterday British industry was the cause of much of the pollution affecting the Nordic countries and urged Scandinavia to increase pressure on Britain to act against "acid rain".

Mr Palme deplored Britain's refusal to join 20 European countries committed to cutting sulphur emissions by 30 per cent by 1993, in a speech to the 33rd annual session of the Nordic Council.

He stopped short of repeating charges that Britain was waging environmental war on its neighbours.

Last December, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland and Finland blamed Britain for lack of co-operation in international moves to reduce pollution.

PLANTATIONS - Cont.

[illegible][illegible]

3/08	Anthony Smiraglio	194	6	0.09	1.0	0.4
3/08	Benny Smith	298	-7	1.85	11	2.0
60	Bornia Trust	21	6.6	1.0	6.3	0.3
3/08	Bornia Trust	130	120	1.0	1.0	0.0
10	Capital 1cp	9	1	0.0%	-	-
5/23	Carroll Res	147	-3	5.15	1.3	1.6
5/23	Carroll Res	865	6.25	1.3	3.6	0.6
3/08	Carroll Res	1	-1	-	-	-
83	Englewood 20p	102	2	7.5	1.0	5.0
83	Englewood 20p	101	1	7.2	1.0	4.8
71	Franchise Corp	84	2	2.0	1.0	0.6
71	Franchise Corp	166	1	2.0	1.0	0.6
211	Gusco Corp	223	1	17.5	1.2	0.6
23	Hagerud	45	-1	-	-	-
189	Hagerud	1	1	2.8	1.0	0.6
167	Imco 10p	127	1	7.0	0.3	3.8
34	Joan 50p	29	3	3.15	1.0	2.3
390	Adams 10p	497	-4	6.75	-	-
390	Adams 10p	39	1	6.75	-	-
483	Longmire Inc	658	15	6.50	1.0	1.9
185	Mulligan 10p	280	5	0.1	11.0	4.0
261	Perco Inc	324	-	-	-	-
266	Phycorpus	416	-3	4.85	-	17.4
199	Premat 20p	522	-2	3.5	5.0	5.2
488	Reeboutum	304	-2	1.1	1.0	1.6

MINES					
237	Stranahan Ind.	67	25	1	33
150	Talmanac	162	-2	-1	-40
356	Tenneco Inc.	420	-1	0	27
100	Truax Mtna	162	1	11	17
64	64	64	8	3	15
253	Wardrop Ind.	270	1	135	12
77	Wagstaff	105	-1	40	31
378	Washington Wampac	412	3	34	10
10	10	11	-2	3	10
33	Yukon	75	-1	75	10
257	Aluminum Bros	276	0	5	18
191	Climax	245	-1	107	19
15	15	56	1	56	10
170	Amnweg	184	-6	098	10
348	Brady Summit	299	-7	156	12
16	Stone Trust	31	1	6	10
111	Branner	120	120	120	10
80	Conville Up	86	1	005	-1
123	Condit Res	167	3	455	13
64	64	64	1	1	36
44	Eschworth	84	-1	-1	10
78	Empire 200	102	-2	75	10
85	Fraction Ltd	101	2	2	48

142	Groceries/10p	186	2.25	10	3.5
211	Change 10p	220	1.75	12	0.8
22	Holiday	-	-	-	-
123	Change 10p	141	1	2.8	11
340	Add 50p	39	1.5	10	2.3
390	Krups 50p	487	4	7.5	41
165	Lottery 10p	217	1	3.38	10
425	Langlois inc	505	5	6.5	32
183	Machines 10p	290	5	10	11.9
281	Motor Int	334	-	-	-
296	Organic	418	3	4.69	10
188	Organic	522	2	3.5	10
189	Powert 20p	304	-2	1	10
11	Pave 10p	10	-1	1	11
55	Shuter	104	-	7.65	10
32	Squirling 10p	425	-8	9	10
76	Statenman	87	-	2.66	11
27	Strumup ind	91	-	3.6	11
130	Tamarc	182	-2	3	10
365	Tanaka Inc	420	-1	2	10
24	Travel Merit	15	1.5	11	31
24	Travel	64	83	10	5.3
253	Vocant 9p	290	1	1.35	12

378	Wagstaff	105	1	0.4	3.1	3.2
379	Worming Womple	413	3	4.0	1.0	2.5
380	Yardley Top	176	2	1.0	1.0	4.0
381	Yardley	75	1	7.5	0.4	0.4
251	Zaphon	215	0.5	1.6	0.3	0.3
197	Abenion	245	1	10.5	1.9	1.9
198	Abeninc	202	1	10.6	1.8	1.8
170	Athering	184	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.7
349	Baileys Camp	299	2	5.5	1.1	1.1
16	Bord Trust	21	0.1	0.9	1.0	2.0
180	Bramwell	120	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.9
80	Claire	90	1	0.25	0.7	0.7
123	Cotter's Top	53	3	5.15	1.0	3.6
320	Crab Top	320	4	2.9	1.3	0.9
38	Ephraetas	54	1	4.5	1.3	0.6
78	Ephraeta 20b	102	2	7.5	1.0	5.0
83	Essex 10	101	2	7.5	1.0	4.8
140	Essex 20	84	2	7.5	1.0	4.8
211	Goodenall Inst	223	1	2.5	1.0	1.0
149	Pumpkin Cove	238	1.75	1.5	2.0	0.5
22	Hagghard	45	1	1.1	1.0	1.0
199	Holston	204	2	8.8	1.1	4
19	Hyde	84	2	2.0	1	1

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181	142	Grödzinska mł	188		2.25	1.0	3.3	2.4	524
260	211	Gruppen 10p.	223		1.75	1.2	0.8	0.3	304
25	22								

228	199	Holston	204	2.8	1.1	4.1	1.9	104
151	123	Impey 10p	147	7.0	0.9	3.8	4.8	427

39	34	Judd 50b	39		2.15	1.0	2.3	2.0	119
487	390	Krupps Jones	487	+4	8.75	-	4.1	1.8	99
217	178	Listerman	217	-1	2.38	1.0	3.2	8.6	162

525	420	Longhorn Inc	525	+5	6.5	-	4.0	17	420
326	185	Muzzley 10p	290		5.0	1.0	11.9	31	106

472	281	Pinto Ind	384	-	-	-	27	68
473	296	Onglecorp	418	3	4 89	1 0	17 4	19 291
88	47	Prangle	73	-	-	-	1 8	105

524	499	Prewitt 20p	522	+2	3.5	1.0	5.4	0.4	415
304	188	Roebottom	304	+2	1.1	1.0	1.2	3.9	112

19	11	Rye Grp	19	+1	1.1	1.1	3.1	-	75
104	55	Skudder	104		7.65	1.0	5.6	1.7	286
427	322	Sauring 10p	427	+8	9.0	1.0	2.7	2.7	246

119	76	Stulerman	118	-	-	-	-	212
99	27	Stranco Int	87	3.5	1.1	3.3	1.1	235

102	130	Tabernash	102	+2	3.1	-	4.0	2.9	298
120	355	Titmarsh Inc	420	+1	2.1	1.0	2.7	0.3	29
108	100	Trico Metal	102		1.8	1.1	3.1	1.4	127

66	24	Uley	64		8.3	1.0	5.3	0.4	99
251	253	Vizzard Grp	250	1	1.35	1.2	1.0	-	162

105	77	Wagstaff	105	+1	4.0	3.1	3.2	4.8	625
115	378	Weinberg Wimple	413		3.4	1.0	2.5	1.6	54
112	67	Widex 10n	112	+2	3.4	1.0	4.0	1.6	108

75	33	Yurkin	75	+1	7.5	1.0	5.4	4.7	101
286	251	Zappone Bros	276		0.5	1.8	0.3	0.6	86

48	197	Aaronson.	246	+1	10%	-	1.9	2.5	187
112	176	Alben Inc.	202		1.56	1.0	2.8	1.0	260
135	130	Adamsco	184	-6	0.08	1.0	0.4	2.2	45

170	Ashtanga	194	-8	0.09	1.0	0.4	2.2	43
348	Bhatty Smugg	299	+7	1.55	1.1	2.0	4.4	228
16	Bortz Trust	21		6.6	1.0	5.3	3.9	151

27	110	Bramard	128	12.0	1.0	5.9	0.8	39 487 212
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54	24	Ebonestros	54	+1	7%	-	6.5	5.5
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08	78	Eggleston 20p	102	-2	7.5	1.0	5.0	0.1	372
01	85	Frank 10p	101		7.2	1.0	4.8	0.3	473
86	71	Embley Cym	84		2.0	-	1.1	4.8	188

87	142	Grodzinski Intl	196	2.25	1.0	3.5	2.4	526	4
60	211	Guppen 10p.	223	1.75	1.2	0.6	0.3	304	1

45	22	Hildegaard	48	+			0.4	19
228	199	Hotson	204		28	11	4.1	104
51	122	Imma, Jn	147	1	70	09	3.8	437

[illegible]

Thatcher talks go well

Lange given pledge of British trade backing despite clash on Anzus

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, got the reassurance he was seeking from Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday when she promised to continue British support for his country's interests in Europe.

This was despite sharply differing views over Mr Lange's anti-nuclear policies, which have led to a crisis in the Anzus pact between Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

His 45-minute meeting with Mrs Thatcher came at the end of a six-day visit to Britain - and shortly after the news from Australia that the Anzus Council meeting in Canberra in July had been cancelled.

In a special statement from New Zealand House before leaving for Downing Street, Mr Lange said he regretted the decision and later added that American pressure had "very

clearly" been behind the decision.

There had been no hint of this when he was in the United States last week, Mr Lange said after his meeting with Mrs Thatcher, and he did not agree that the alliance was at an end. Nobody believed more firmly than New Zealand in the need for Anzus - or in the need for next July's conference.

Mr Lange will be able to express himself more directly to Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, when the two meet in Canberra on April 17.

Amid all the rumpus, Mr Lange's expected confrontation with Mrs Thatcher must have come as an item of good news because the meeting seems to have gone better than had been feared.

Although they expressed their differing views on nuclear weapons, the British Prime

Minister pledged to continue her support for New Zealand trade. This must have come as a relief to the Wellington Government, with its economic problems. New Zealand has already expressed its gratitude to Britain, which negotiated a new set of Commonwealth preference agreements in Brussels last year.

Meanwhile, Mr Paul Nitze, the veteran US statesman who is masterminding the American approach to next week's arms talks in Geneva, made clear yesterday that he thought New Zealand was to blame for the troubles in Anzus.

In an international interview linked by satellite to Washington, he denied that the United States had taken strong action against New Zealand and said he hoped that close collaboration through Anzus would continue.



Agreeing to disagree: Mr Lange and Mrs Thatcher before their meeting at No 10 yesterday

Hawke dismisses treaty as existing in name only

From Tony Dobson, Melbourne

Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, sounded what seemed like the death knell for the Anzus treaty yesterday when he said it was a treaty in name only. He said Australia would do nothing to try and influence either the United States or New Zealand to alter their respective positions.

The Prime Minister was speaking at a mass conference after issuing a statement that the tripartite Anzus Council meeting between the US, New Zealand and Australia, due to be held in Canberra in July, had been called off.

Mr Hawke's statement said the breakdown of relations between Washington and Wellington over New Zealand's refusal to allow nuclear armed or powered ships access to its ports had made the holding of the annual council meeting impractical.

He said Australia's decision to call off the meeting was not made at the direct request of the United States.

The United States has already cancelled this year's Anzus defence exercise, and cut New Zealand out of the American intelligence network. It has also indicated that New Zealand may not continue to be eligible for special trade preferences.

Mr Hawke was at pains in his statement to emphasize that the Anzus treaty remained, but at the press conference he conceded that it was a treaty in name only.

"I think you have to say that in so far as Anzus was a tripartite relationship, no, there is virtually nothing of it which is operative now. And I say in operative terms, having emphasized that the treaty itself remains there."

Meanwhile, two destroyers,

the John Young and the Buchanan sailed into Sydney Harbour yesterday to be greeted by a flotilla of small craft protesting against the visit. The Buchanan was the ship the United States had requested be given entry rights to New Zealand and, following Washington's refusal to deny or confirm that the ship was nuclear armed, led to the present crisis.

● JAKARTA: Mr Paul Wolfowitz, US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, said yesterday that New Zealand remained a friend of the United States but being an ally involved certain basic obligations. (Our Correspondent writes).

He said that the United States was not looking for any one country to substitute for New Zealand as a port of call for ships carrying nuclear weapons.

Shoot-on-sight order to avert Bihar poll violence

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

A massive deployment of armed police is being locked into position around the 121 constituencies in the north Indian state of Bihar which go to the polls today on the second day of voting in the state assembly elections.

Altogether, 215 companies of police and paramilitary forces - more than 20,000 men - are being posted to try to prevent a repeat of the murder and mayhem on the first day's polling. Politicians fear that the state may witness yet another wave of violence and killing as the armed gangs run by "Mafia" bosses, caste chieftains and political trouble makers clash.

A shoot-on-sight order has been issued allowing low-level police decisions to open fire on crowds threatening to capture polling stations or loot ballot boxes. The order was in force during the voting on Saturday. Despite that, and despite a number of deaths after shooting by police, polling stations were captured and boxes were looted. Voting has been ordered to take place again in 126 polling stations around the state.

The neighbouring state of Uttar Pradesh, the most populous in the union, had its electoral troubles, but nothing on the scale of Bihar, which has the second largest population.

Fresh polling has been ordered in 24 polling stations.

Polling for the first time takes place today in seven other states and one federally administered union territory - Pondicherry.

Vote counting in all the states will not begin until the polls close today at 4pm.

Leading article, page 15

Outspoken minister sacked by Marcos

From Keith Dalton, Manila

President Marcos of the Philippines yesterday dismissed for his "incompatible views" his outspoken Foreign Minister, Mr Arturo Tolentino, a frequent critic of the President's decrees-making powers.

He also publicly rebuked the Labour Minister, Mr Blas Ople, who at the weekend denounced political patronage and supported moves to strip Mr Marcos of his decree powers by rewriting the constitution.

The two ministers are among the most outspoken members of the Cabinet. Mr Ople has said he would be a candidate in presidential elections in 1987, while Mr Tolentino recently rejected an offer to head a leading opposition party.

President Marcos dismissed Mr Tolentino after Manila's morning newspapers quoted the minister as saying that while Mr Marcos could appoint ambassadors and consuls, it was the Foreign Ministry alone that could designate their posts.

Mr Tolentino's views on "certain matters" involving his ministry were incompatible with those of the ruling New Society Movement and the Government, Mr Marcos said in a letter to the minister.

"If I have to maintain the integrity of the Cabinet and the administration, as I intend to, then it would not be possible any longer for you to continue in office as Minister of Foreign Affairs."

Mr Tolentino's actions left no choice but to relieve him of his post in order to maintain the integrity of the Cabinet and his administration, the President said.

Mr Marcos suggested it would have been better had Mr Tolentino taken up his views with him personally before airing them to the press.

He said the same thing in a letter to Mr Ople, asking him to explain his recent criticism of "political patronage" as perpetuating economic underdevelopment. In November, when Mr Marcos was reported to be seriously ill, Mr Ople's comments to a reporter that the President may not have been in firm control brought a strong and public denunciation by Mr Marcos.

By dismissing his independently-minded Foreign Minister, Mr Marcos has rid himself of one of the few ministers prepared openly to criticize government policies.

Since replacing the veteran Mr Carlos Romula in July last year, Mr Tolentino has strongly denounced Mr Marcos's use of sweeping arrests and decrees-making powers, despite the lifting of eight years of martial law in 1981.

The public squabble over jurisdiction of ambassadorial posts and appointments appears to observers to have been the last straw for Mr Marcos, who has openly criticized Mr Tolentino several times before.

Life in Bulawayo returned rapidly to normal yesterday after a two-day operation by Zimbabwe security forces in which townships were sealed off while homes were searched.

A police spokesman said a number of people had been arrested. More details would be given once a joint army and police committee had compiled a full report on the operation.

It was condemned by Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of Zapu, the main opposition to the ruling Zanu (PF) party in elections scheduled for June, and by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, leader of the United African National Council.

Urgent UN appeal for more cereal supplies to Sudan

From Michael Prest, Khartoum

The United Nations has appealed formally to leading donor nations to find more than 550,000 tonnes of cereals for Sudan by the end of June to avert "mass starvation" among the country's own population.

In a letter sent last week to ambassadors in Khartoum, Mr Arthur Holcombe, representative of the United Nations Development Programme, which is co-ordinating internal relief, gave a warning that millions of people, including 750,000 children, may not receive their basic food requirements in the second half of 1985.

The UNDP estimates that Sudan needs 3.4 million tonnes of cereals this year. Last year's harvest, hit by drought and transport difficulties, fell short of two million tonnes. Donor commitments so far total 365,000 tonnes, leaving a deficit of 560,000 tonnes.

The appeal coincides with the visit here of Mr George Bush, the US Vice-President, who is to attend an emergency conference of donors in Geneva next week.

But UN officials in Khartoum fear that the full amount of 560,000 tonnes will not be forthcoming. They point out that despite repeated private requests the EEC has still pledged less than India's 22,560 tonnes.

The UNDP thinks that by June, when the rains are due, Sudan will have consumed all the food now available. The cumulative deficit will be more than 600,000 tonnes by October if no additional supplies arrive. The harvest, assuming there is rain, should be in November.

If the year's deficit is not less than 250,000 tonnes, 3.7 million people could starve to death. Even these figures are tentative: The number of people suffering badly from the

drought could be greater than estimated. The calculation is based on the World Food Programme minimum of 400 grammes per person per day - hardly a princely portion - and no account is taken of what will happen if this year's harvest also fails.

Moreover, it is estimated that at least one million Sudanese are already severely affected by the drought, quite apart from the 1.5 million refugees who have flooded into the country.

People need, on top of the basic grain ration, supplementary feeding if diseases such as measles, whooping cough, dia-

OAU food summit

The foreign ministers of countries in the Organization of African Unity ended a week-long meeting in Addis Ababa yesterday which paved the way for the first big review in five years of Africa's faltering economies (Reuter reports). They agreed to hold an OAU summit in Addis Ababa from July 18 to 21 which will try to find remedies for falling food output, stagnant economic growth and widespread hunger because of drought.

rhoea and dysentery are to be held at bay. The donors must therefore find over the coming nine months 10,800 tonnes of dried skimmed milk, 8,100 tonnes of vegetable oil, and 10,800 tonnes of pulses.

With the mortality rate now at least twice as high as normal among Sudan's own people, the time has come, Mr Holcombe says, for governments to act. His agency has been pressing for decisions since last October when the size of the potential food deficit for 1985 was realized. So far, however, only a fraction of the amount needed has been pledged.

Rebels free French crew abducted on aid flight

Addis Ababa (Reuter, AFP) - Ethiopian rebels yesterday freed unharmful five French Air Force crewmen who were seized on Sunday with their aircraft on a famine-relief mission, the French Embassy said.

The aircraft carried eight tonnes of wheat for thousands of people in the northern towns of Lalibela, in Wollo province.

Diplomats in Addis Ababa said on Sunday that four foreign medical staff of the Médicins Sans Frontières volunteer relief agency were abducted in the same incident.

But officials in Paris and an agency spokesman in Ethiopia said yesterday the medical workers were on board the Transal cargo aircraft and were not abducted.

The agency spokesman said he had learnt that the rebels had seized the wheat, but this could not be immediately confirmed.

Diplomats said they were fairly sure the rebels belonged to the Tigre People's Liberation Front which is fighting for more autonomy.

The five airmen returned to Addis Ababa yesterday on board their aircraft, the French Embassy said.

Ethiopian rebel groups say they are feeding hundreds of thousands of people who are denied food by the Government because they are suspected of sympathizing with guerrillas.

Diplomats said Sunday's incident undermined the vulner-

ability of aid workers to abduction in Wollo, Tigre and Eritrea.

It was the first time the rebels had seized any Western air force aircraft ferrying food aid from Ethiopia's ports and far-flung relief centres. But they have attacked convoys of trucks and have been reported close enough to relief centres to force mercy flights to be postponed briefly, Western aid workers said.

The Tigre People's Liberation Front abducted volunteers of the Save the Children Fund in 1983 and released them in Sudan, where relief groups help to co-ordinate the delivery of food aid to areas that the rebels claim to control.

The Front said it abducted the aid workers to show them areas of famine beyond the Government's reach, and to press its claim to more food aid via Sudan.

Meanwhile, French pilots and an Austrian flight engineer whose helicopter made forced a landing in northern Ethiopia on February 21 are being held by Ethiopia. The French Embassy said yesterday.

Th Puma helicopter, which belongs to the Dutch company Schreiner Airways, was flying from Rotterdam to Mombasa in Kenya when it developed technical trouble and landed at the airport of Asmara.

The crew are placed under house arrest in an Asmara hotel because they lacked visas.

USSR: Ivan Kovalyov

By Caroline Moorehead

Ivan Kovalyov, an engineer who became involved in the civil rights movement as a result of monitoring the trial of his father, the eminent biologist and dissident Sergei Kovalyov, is serving a five-year sentence in a strict-regime labour camp for the same offences.

Mr Kovalyov, who is 30, has been accused of anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. His father, after seven years in prison, is now in exile in a distant part of the Soviet Union.

Ivan Kovalyov's wife, Tatyana Osipova, is also in a labour camp, serving a five-year sentence, to be followed by five years' internal exile. They have met only once, for half an hour, since her arrest in 1980.

After his father's trial in 1975, Mr Kovalyov took an increasingly active part in writing and circulating *samizdat* articles. In 1977 he

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

graduated from the Moscow Institute of Rail Transport Engineering but, finding it did not leave him enough time for civil rights work, abandoned his profession to become a baker, then a fireman in a theatre.

In August, 1981, Mr Kovalyov was arrested and taken to Lefortovo KGB prison, where his wife was held before her trial. His mother, sister, and a number of his friends were interrogated and their houses searched.

Shortly after his arrival at Perm 35 Camp, he was sentenced to five months in the camp prison for "making a list of all the political prisoners in the camp". After that he is reported to have been almost continuously in the punishment cells, ostensibly for complaining about malnutrition in the food and for "not fulfilling his work norm". Recently, he was moved to Perm 36 Camp.

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ministers of foreign
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London and a series
of talks between
the two sides.
The British Foreign
Secretary, Lord
Averis, said that
the British government
was "not prepared
to discuss the
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crew
light

CHANCE

1. The first group of people who are not in the labor force are those who are not in the labor force because they are not in the labor force.



Lufthansa

**FRIENDS
OF THE ELDERLY
and Gentlefolk's Help**

From 1st April the government plans to ban many medicines from NHS supply. If Parliament permits it, the new scheme will bring Whitehall bureaucracy trundling into every family doctor's surgery.

True, the list of medicines the government now wants doctors to prescribe for their NHS patients is not so restricted as was first proposed. But even so, many tried, trusted and well recognised preparations are threatened.

People need medicines for many reasons. The mental comfort provided by a familiar remedy is sometimes as valuable as its more direct medical effects. It is also important for safety reasons that patients should recognise their medicines, and identify them easily. Unless they can do so there could be needless accidents, particularly among the elderly. Patient recognition helps guard against professional and personal errors in

medicine administration.

The government's plan will threaten safety and well-being. It is not just that some patients – including those older people who are exempt from NHS prescription charges – may have to go without their accustomed treatments or pay for them privately. Most of the listed medicines which the government is still prepared to allow on the NHS will not be prescribable by their brand names. So alternatives (many of which will be imported from countries where manufacturing controls are not so strict as in Britain) will be dispensed, depending on which version can be purchased most cheaply at any particular time. This means that however long a patient takes a medicine they will not reliably be able to recognise it, because of the possibility of confusing changes.

This type of compulsory substitution,

over which doctors will have no control, has a similarly lethal potential for the British drug industry. **The government's scheme will result in harm to patients: harm to the principle of free doctor/patient treatment choice: harm to the British research based pharmaceutical industry, which is our last really successful area of high technology enterprise: and harm to our national economy.**

Write to your MP at The House of Commons, London SW1, and ask him or her to oppose the government's April fool NHS medicines plan.



**Fighting for
a healthier future.**

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

"WHAT D'YOU MEAN OUR MEDICINES ARE COMING OFF THE NHS..."

**...we're
over 65."**



SPECTRUM

Revealed—why Lord Gnome's feeling smug



W. H. Smith have lifted their longstanding ban on selling the satirical magazine *Private Eye*.

John Wells, an early contributor, traces its controversial history

and considers what a wider audience will make of its often outrageous humour and coded revelations

For those of us who can still remember the first yellow-paper dummy of *Private Eye* being stapled together in William Rushton's bedroom at 28, Scarsdale Villas, Kensington — no GLC plaque as yet — the fact that the magazine, with a circulation approaching a quarter of a million, goes on sale nationally this year at W. H. Smith's should be an excuse to crack open a bottle of the Editor's vintage Apollinaris and celebrate.

In those boozy days over the Gottlieb pinball machine in the Queen's Head and Eight Bells round the corner for Richard Ingram's tastefully appointed period residence in Cheyne Row, when Rushton used to bellow that we should "knock Punch off its porch", it all seemed mere umbrella-flailing oratory. Now it has come true.

W. H. Smith's persistent refusal to handle the organ after its first four years of existence won them a full-page satirical advertisement on the back of the 100th issue. This announced amid cherubs trailing wreaths and ribbons, that the ban had won them the respect of "numerous persons too repulsive to mention" and expressed the hope that "Britain's leading booksellers" might rot in hell.

We have all rotted on for 30 years, the *interdict* has remained in force, and Smiths have continued to make regular appearances in the satirical fortnightly, either as W. H. Smith or as W. H. Smugg. But now David Cash, the magazine's miserly business manager, and Lord Hambleden of Smith's, would appear to have kissed and made up. Bundles of *Private Eye* joined the "sox, toys and discs" of Rushton's corrosive cartoon w.e.f. this February.

All very well for Mr Cash and Mr Ingrams as they bury the loot in some Swiss vault inaccessible to litigants and other contributors to the lampoon.

But what of the good customers of W. H. Smugg/Smith in Barnsley or Tadcaster? What will they make of "continued p.93", "Shome mishake shurely" or items of gossip about the poor unfortunate inmates of White's Club, comprehensible though they be in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea?

To a great extent, of course, the question was answered in the early 1960s, when Peter Cook led regional sales campaigns, teaching babes all over the country now grown to manhood to lip rude words and chuckle at the name of Selwyn Lloyd. Much of the magazine, including the cover, is comprehensible to anyone over the age of ten of a subversive turn of mind and a nodding acquaintance with the headlines, whether or not they come from the R B & C.

'They have won our confidence'

W. H. Smith deny imposing moral censorship on *Private Eye* or that they blacked the magazine.

"People may have thought we refused to sell it on moral grounds," says a spokesman. "But we are not censors though clearly we do have a responsibility to the public. We are a business and we take heed of our customers' requirements."

"Quite simply we were concerned that in any libel action we would be joined together with the defendant in any ensuing action. The law has not changed

but over the years we have seen how rare the libel actions are and when they do occur *Private Eye* has handled its legal matters very responsibly without involving the newspaper or wholesaler.

"At one of our review meetings, a normal procedure before selling any publication, we decided *Private Eye* had won our confidence. It is too early to say how well its sales are doing."

Before the magazine was available in Smith's the print order approached 200,000. This has now been increased by 100,000.

Other parts of the paper are harder to come to grips with: for

many years, the only thing anyone ever asked about *Private Eye* at parties, even in the Royal Burgin, was "Do tell, are the advertisements genuine?" Eventually even the staff got round to reading them, and discovered that they were not. Since then, the motorbikes, ladies' clubs looking for gentlemen and strange-sounding services have disappeared, but the confusion has spread to the rest of the magazine. What are Ugandan Discussions? Should every issue of the paper carry a footnote to the effect that the phrase was first minted by a now highly respectable lady journalist in the early Seventies coming downstairs at a party with an African politician and saying they had been "talking about Uganda"?

What are they going to think in the Blackpool branch of Britain's Leading Booksellers about Homo Rigidus, alias the Rigid Man, a sobriquet applied to a much abused contributor to the *Spectator* in the habit of getting "tired and emotional"? What of Hopalong Brendo, or the Mont?

Do Lord Gnome, and contributors like Glenda Slag, Auberon Waugh and E. J. Thribb really exist, or are they grotesque inventions? If the latter, who writes the paper? To answer any of these questions would be to venture into a minefield.

New readers, however, can take it as a general rule that the grey bits, or narrow columns of small print, are information, supplied in the main by informers, and judged to be true by the Editor under the guidance of Divine Inspiration. "It's like the Bible. It has the ring of truth." This information concerns

● International white trash whose names appear in a more flattering

light in other gossip columns but never anywhere else, making it possible to trace most of these stories to the frustrated gossip columnist in question.

● Dark Right Wing forces bent on the suppression of certain undersung heroes whose names only appear in the *Guardian*.

● Amazingly obscure figures in the music business whose names only appear "low down" in concert programmes after the cigarettes.

● Tucked away at the back, big villains in the City of London and provincial capitals whose activities have not yet, usually for some very entertaining reason, been drawn to the attention of the authorities; or, which for some even more entertaining reason the authorities have declined to pass on to the Press.

The remainder of the magazine, without betraying too many trade secrets, is given over to pure entertainment, what are known as "the jokes". These are written in collaboration and red-out like review sketches before being typed out on the office typewriter and gummed down with suitable headlines and illustrations to parody the more expensive lay-out techniques employed by other papers.

There is also an element of entertainment in the Correspondence Column, where the Editor exercises the unique privilege of giving anyone who has the cheek to query or quibble a good solid boot up the backside as they enter the witness box, captioning the letter "Bore" or "Pathetic", often taking

away some of the force of the letter itself, but making for a lively page. Most of these letters appear to be genuine, but those not signed Larry Adler should be treated with caution.

The word "bore", which figures frequently in the remaining pages of the magazine, which are thrown over to pure entertainment with a faint flavouring of editorial comment, is one that has figured regularly through the years and probably needs explaining. Though sharing the conventional sense of tedium, it also carries a specific upper-middle-class sense of being actively offensive. Boiled down, this usually means betraying any kind of romantic emotion or excessive passion, optimistic or in any way generalized view of the world, particularly if the speaker should chance to be working-class, royal, foreign, middle-class, a student, Jewish or an aristocrat.

It is this exclusive world that the new punter, hesitating with 40p in hand between *Funky Sounds* and *Which Gadget?* in W. H. Smith, is encouraged to enter: a rather stuffy club, with its own mystique of stiff upper-middle-class lip, cheeky new-bugs and suggestions of fun behind the Pav, usually the same old member of White's taking a pasting from Nigel Dempster in the guise of a masked Miss Whiplash. Big Dick

The advertisement that launched a thousand libels. Right: Richard Ingrams (left) and William Rushton

discs W H SMUGG & Co. Britain's Leading Booksellers greetings take a basket

YOU won't find us THERE BUT you will from our business manager, (a tall man with ginger hair) who resides at 37a Clapham Road, London N.1. Private Eye is now obtainable in the laughable Yearly package (twenty-six fortnightly issues) for 18/6, and a weekly ten shillings for the handy six-monthly ECONOMY OFFER.

NAME ADDRESS

Cheques, P.O.'s, banking slips payable to President Ed.

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How Big Dick will feel — not financially, of course, that goes without saying — but deep down emotionally about the influx of new members through Smith's is something one can only speculate about. Not of course, given their numbers, that it is likely he will ever see them, short of booking a Gnome Rally at Wembley Stadium. On the only occasion he ever met the readership in the early years, when a public demonstration in support of Sir Alec Douglas Home had been called in Greek Street on a Sunday morning, he threw up the window on the long vista of beards and sandals, babies in carrying-slings, and placards saying "The Bailie will not fail ye", and was appalled.

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Ingrams, the shambling proprietor, likes to encourage the use and recognition of the club nicknames, and those with time to spare can eavesdrop on the ramblings of the club's hoary old regulars, Denis Thatcher and his friend Bill, Luncheon O'Booze, and dear old Colonel Gussell.

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The Beatle who was drummed out

Three or more bricks have been lobbed through the window of the Old Swan Jobcentre in Prescott Road, Liverpool so now, come five o'clock or the weekend, metal shutters come down across the face of the office.

On those shutters someone, presumably one of those who make up the 21 per cent unemployed in this area and in his or her own way is fighting back, has painted-on the word "Jokeshop".

Pete Best, who is 43, and has been working at this Jobcentre for 16 years, arrives at 8.45 each morning in his Cortina from his terraced house in the suburbs of West Derby. He is an employment officer earning £8,500 a year. His wife, Kathy, is a shop assistant at Marks and Spencer, so is his daughter, Beba, 21. Daughter Bonita, 17, is unemployed.

"Oh, it's a tough job here," he says. "You see some desperate cases. I've learned what it's like to be down. I know there's no instant solution, but you push away hoping to offer a future. Another chance."

The worse cases are the long-term unemployed. People, who through no fault of their own, have been made redundant, have sometimes been retrained in new skills and seen those skills phased out too. No one's to blame, but there they are. Down. Defeated like I. I'm seeing 30, 40 people a day and 80 per cent of them have no job whatsoever.

"But it does have its rewarding moments, what I do. Seeing people, occasionally, picking up the pieces again."

Pete Best knows about picking up the pieces again. Best, who still wears zip-sided boots, was once a Beatle, the drummer in the band when bands were called groups, and then John, Paul and George had their manager Brian Epstein sack him and replace him by Ringo.

Could there have been anything more painful in the Sixties than to have been a Beatle and to have had it taken from you?

"I remember," says Best, "it was a sunny day, August 16, 1962. Eppy talked round and round the subject and suddenly said that they wanted me out and Ringo in starting on the Saturday. You hear people saying they felt numb. I felt numb."

I remember I went to the Grapes in Matthew Street and had a pint and then I went home and cried my eyes out. If I'm honest I don't like talking about it even now.

"There was this gut feeling... they had left me behind and were going further and further away. They took something from me that I could have been a part of. It was like the man from Littlewoods saying



Best today: "I still don't know why the Beatles got rid of me"



Best the Beatle (second from right): sacked in August 1962

you'd won and then snatching back the cheque. Only it wasn't the money. It was everything. It was being a Beatle.

"To this day I don't know why I was sacked. It wasn't that Ringo was a better drummer. I go over and over it in my mind, but I still don't know."

Next week a book by Peter Best is published telling of those early Beatle days. It is already on sale in Liverpool's Beatle City, one of the last remaining places where Ringo's customized Mini, and John's Rickenbacker guitar are on display along with blown up photographs of the Beatles with Best sitting at the drums.

"There was no avoiding what I had lost," he says. "Their music was everywhere. They, and Ringo, were on the front pages and on television."

"I thought, perhaps, they'd have one hit record and perhaps another, but it didn't stop, did it? And I thought, 'Well, they'll never take America, Elvis Presley's there', but they scored the moment they walked off the plane."

I'd struggled to survive and all the time they were going further and further away and it was always in the back of my mind I should have been part of it. One day it just got to me.

"We had a flat in my mother's house. Kathy was out and there was this gas fire and I remember turning it on, not lighting it, putting a towel down

Best went on drumming until 1962 and then admitted defeat. "In the end you think: that's it, enough. There came a time when I knew I had to make the best of what was available. The family needed more than me drumming away with my dreams."

The first was wrapping and stacking bread for the Wonder-loaf company. The second job came when he walked into the very employment office which was to become the Jobcentre where he works now, and a junior position was offered.

"They gave me a chance in that office," he says, "and I took it. I'm not saying that you completely mellow, but you have a life to lead and you settle for the best of what's available. It's a secure job and, sometimes, you do feel you've done a bit of good. Put somebody back up again."

He was shaving, ready to go to that Jobcentre, when the news came through that Lennon had been shot. "I have to admit there were some who said to me it was just recompense after what they'd done to me, but it just drained me that this senseless thing had happened. John was the one I liked the most. George just went along with what the others said, Paul was all for the limelight, but John was the best."

"I'm a quiet mannered family man now," says the ex-Beatle. "Though if I was 18 and the offer was there again I'd have no second thoughts. I haven't been mobbed for ages..."

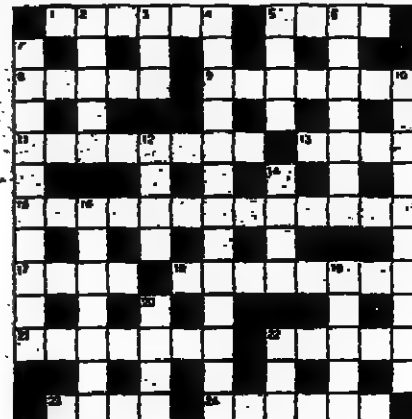
Cordell Marks

'BEATLE! THE PETE BEST STORY' by Pete Best and Patrick Doncaster, published by Plexus Publishing on Thursday, £9.95 (hardback).

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 586)

ACROSS
1 Siva's wife devotee (6)
2 London underground (4)
3 Seasonally (5)
4 Passenger car (7)
5 Skittles (8)
6 Counter-jumper (4)
7 Display (13)
8 Object word (4)
9 Infected (8)
10 Lobe ornament (7)
11 Engine part (3)
12 Stopper (4)
13 Joyful cry (6)

DOWN
1 Grey wader (5)
2 Young post (3)
3 Surprisingly (13)
4 Printed body (4)
5 Ice cream (7)
6 Conductor jolly (10)
7 Fed up (7, 3)



12 Part (4)
14 Bottom (4)
16 Indifferent (7)

19 Drench (5)
20 Sovereign (4)
22 Cover (3)

SOLUTION TO No 585

ACROSS: 1 Scram 4 Lincins 8 Rival 9 Remorse 10 Verandah 11 Pact 13 Hibernation 17 Maps 18 Scintilla 21 Risotto 22 Gaffe 23 Averages 24 Torce
DOWN: 1 Strive 2 Rover 3 Maligner 4 Lorraine 5 Cross 6 Name 7 Tornado 8 Sweaty 12 Straight 14 Impasse 15 Umbria 16 Sapote 19 Infer 20 Stag

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VOLVO

JAVICO 1500

A BIGGER SPLASH

Modern art is the newest inspiration for the shapes and patterns of the spring clothes



Susan Karsid



Jewellery as body sculpture

"I like things that are very pure, not overworked. For me the materials and the line come first", says Donatella Pellini. The graphic and futuristic jewellery of this Italian designer has an enthusiastic fashion following.

Pieces of speckled synthetic granite, as monumental in style as real stone, make a striking necklace. Earrings are twin triangles of curving Plexiglass. Bright, geometric shapes in brilliant colours contrast with the quite different geometry of art deco style.

Donatella Pellini is based in Milan, where her jewellery glows against the dark walls of her small shop. It has become a mecca for designers like the Paris-based Karl Lagerfeld or the Roman Valentino for whom Donatella creates collections.

This follows a family tradition. Her grandmother made jewellery for chic New York stores and for the grand names of haute couture - Dior and Balenciaga.

"But that was an imitation or real jewels", says Donatella Pellini. "I am interested in researching new materials and transforming them artistically into modern design."

Donatella Pellini's sculptural jewellery was displayed in London at the Freeland Gallery in Albemarle Street, where John

Robinson's symbolic bronzes complement the art forms of the jewellery.

The Pellini designs are on sale at Liberty, who have a good selection of the sculptural bangles, the three-dimensional earrings and the tactile bracelets. The jewellery is also available from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, Harrods, Lisa Sterling, Manchester and Hoopers, Torquay.

● Moulded bodies rising out of a latex rubber swamp display Issey Miyake's designs at the Bodyworks exhibition at the Boilerhouse (until April 9). The limited number of works on show present Issey as a sculptor of clothes rather than as a creative force in fashion and textiles.

● With tongue firmly in rosy, rounded cheek, the Arts Council has brought out the art sweat shirt (£11.25) to cover luscious Renoir curves. On sale at the Hayward Gallery and printed with the artist's name in his own hand.

Charity begins at fashion shows... ● March 7: Laura Ashley's entertainment staged by artistic director Patrick Libby at the Royal Opera House in aid of The National Council for one-parent families. Fashion show 3pm. Tickets £12.50 Miranda (267 1361).



Top: Donatella Pellini moulding jewellery like sculpture. Above: granite necklace from synthetic stone

● March 14: Princess Anne launches London Fashion Week at Save the Children gala fashion show, presented by the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council. Gala evening tickets £50, afternoon rehearsal £10 from 703 5400 ext 200.

● March 26: Britain's most celebrated Barnado boy, Bruce Oldfield, hosts a fund-raising show for the Barnado homes. Guest of honour: Bruce Oldfield's most celebrated customer, the Princess of Wales. Tickets £100 from 27 Beza-champ Place, SW3.



Art is the canvas on which the new spring clothes are painted. Bold brush strokes of colour, spatter prints, sculptural shapes and loose smock shirts all combine to draw art into fashion. Textile designers have made a big splash in young London with their painterly prints inspired by the early modern art movement. Gauguin's Tahitian flowers, Van Gogh's foetid colours and Jackson Pollock's sprays of paint, have all appeared as designer prints - along with whimsical and original patterns on fabric.

The fashion ideas of an outrageous few are now spreading like a slick of paint into the rest of fashion. From the abstract flowers of Paris haute couture to brush designs for high street windows, print is the medium and the message of clothes for spring.

This week a superb collection of prints on silk blossoms like a spring garden in Harrods central hall, emphasizing the importance of fabric to fashion and providing an unrivalled display for dressmakers.

Flowers natural and stylized, bold and gentle, are the theme of the exhibition, which includes hand paintings on silk panels to underline the connection between fine art and fabric.

The artistic centre of the display is the work of the Lyons firm of Bucol, whose president Hilaire Colcomber invited contemporary painters to ply their brushes on his silk. Flattering among the floral prints picked by international designers from Chanel to Jean Muir to Gianfranco Ferré is the butterfly - a delicate motif created by Bucol for the 'Say Silk' promotion, and used on striped chiffon, glossy satin or embossed on crepe.

Other designers supplying this feast of fine fabrics are the sophisticated Italian companies like d'Este and Tessuto with their fine weaving techniques for geometrics and abstracts as well as florals, and the incom-

parable Abraham of Switzerland, known for its work with Yves Saint Laurent. The luscious silks are designed to inspire home dressmakers, but they are also on sale as fashions throughout the store.

Although the Harrods silks are imported, some of the prints on them are home grown, for British students are increasingly used for international textile design. At home, the team of ex-Royal College textile students who set themselves up as The Cloth now have an important collection of clothes in their original prints - thick daubs of colour dripping on to a white cotton ground - on sale at Browns, Whistles, Jones and Liberty, Brian Bolger of The

Cloth has also designed a striking bleeding rose print for Betty Jackson.

Celia Birtwell, who made her reputation with prints on chiffon for Ossie Clark in the 1960s, has produced delicate tracery prints on voile for the Emanuels' spring collection. She sells her designs from her shop at 71 Westbourne Park Road, London W2. Pop art in graphic shapes is a theme of the original prints by the two ex-Central School students, who open their own shop selling fabric this month. Reputation, 186 Kensington Park Road, W11.

Because pattern and colour make such a strong statement this season, the clothes are very simple. The big story is the shirt, which comes in every length from hips to knees - for both sexes. The bold artist's smock shirt shape is the most important look, worn with plain white pants or a simple straight skirt, or longer and more languorous pleats.

This image of the artist rolls back the years to the Left Bank and the beatniks - the Paris of Juliette Greco and the England of the 1950s and '60s. This mood is expressed much more subtly than in the more familiar fashion retrospectives. The art lies in the proportions of the long skirt or shirt jacket to slim skirt, or to the new trousers - wide and loose like painter's workwear, or tight Capri pants with a slit to shape the calf.

Sculpture is the other medium that puts art into fashion. Hair is cut in a short, sharp fringe sliced off across the brow; accessories are shaped to the curves of the favourite fifties motif of the artist's palette.

Even shoes are sculpted out of leather, with broad straps and curving cut-outs the strongest story about. Cut-out canvas - an aerated gym shoe - was a witty idea fathered by French designer Jean Paul Gaultier and now spawning new shoe designs. On to the canvas shoes are sprayed the paint splashes of print, scribble designs or even the pretty, chintzy flowers of more conventional art.

Colours for spring include a really strong red, chrome yellow or vivid green, but always against a plain background of white or increasingly black. The softer pastel colours are still dashed with black and painted in bold brushstrokes to cut the sweetness. This sophisticated taste comes right down to the chain stores, where C and A are selling a dark man's cotton shirt scribbled with colour like chalk on slate.

Just as the most striking paintings are always exhibited against a stark white wall, so a boldly patterned garment looks best against a neutral canvas without any emphasis on accessories. A big shirt that shows off arty daubings is fashion's equivalent of a one-man show.

CARVED TO FIT

Twenties-style bar shoe £36.99, black, red, white, bone, selected Ravel shops.

Two-tone lace-up on low wedge £54.50, white/taupe, black/gold, Charles Jourdan, 39-43 Brompton Road SW3; Harvey Nichols, Carmelite, Cardiff.

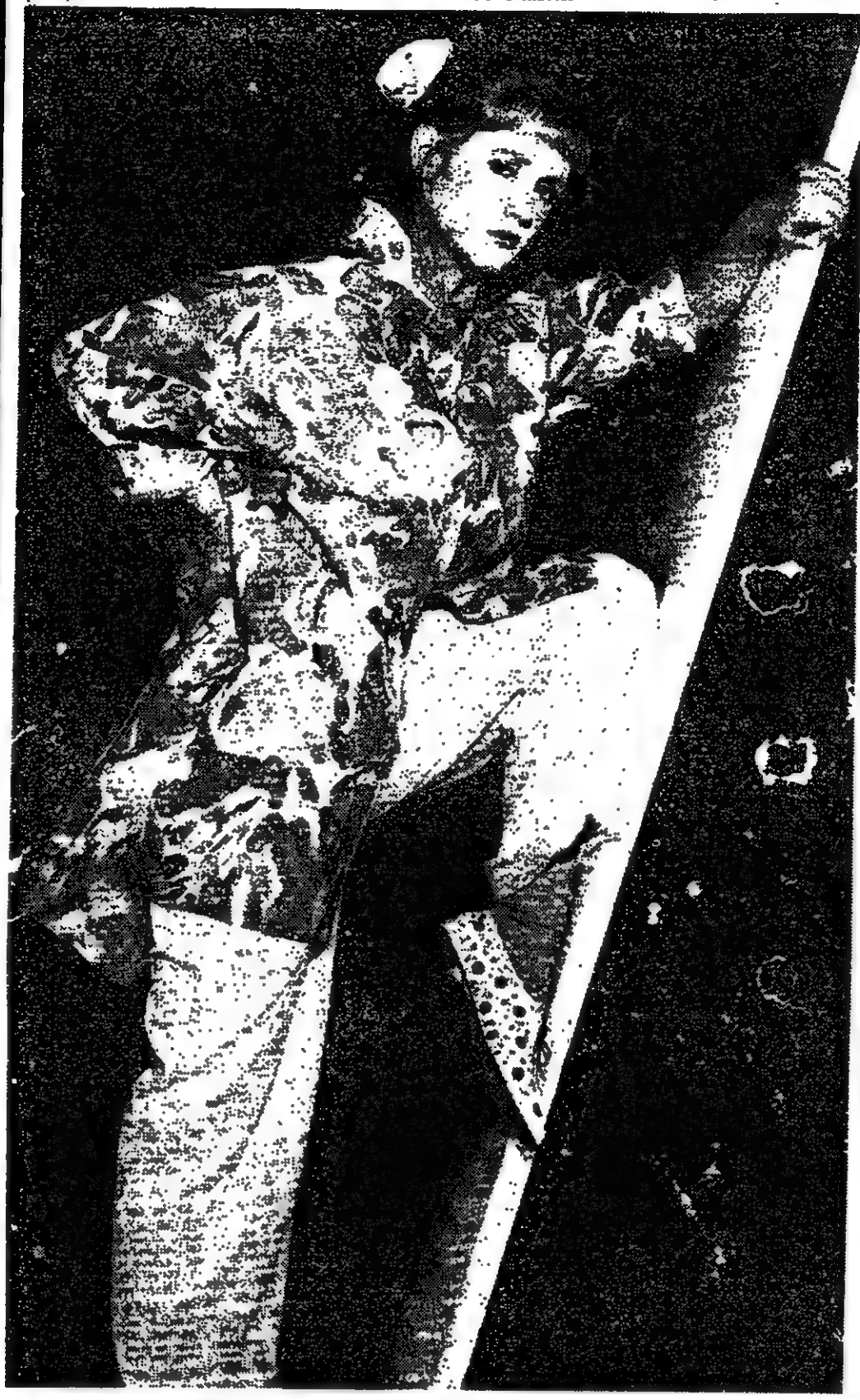
White leather cutaway lace-up by Seducta £45, Xavier Danaud, 33 St Christopher's Place W1; Carmelite, Cardiff; Geiger Shoes, Nottingham.

Striking black and white high sandal £59, also emerald, red, yellow, Xavier Danaud, 33 St Christopher's Place W1.

Grograin cutaway shoe on sculpted patent heel £69.50, tan, black, Xavier Danaud, 33 St Christopher's Place W1.

Fringed leather sling-back £58, Pied à Terre, South Molton Street W1; Sloane Street SW1; Dukes Lane, Brighton.

Illustrations by GEOFF SIMS



Above: Splash print cotton big shirt in Van Gogh colours, £19.99 in vivid orange, turquoise and emerald with black on white. Wide white cotton, painter's trousers with pleat waist £21.99. Both from Next shops nationwide. Coin-spot chiffon pony tail scarf from Liberty of Regent Street. Lino cotton anise socks from Laura Ashley. White leather lace-ups with black patent spots from Pied à Terre, 44 Old Bond Street, W1.

Above left: Cream lightweight wool unlined shirt jacket and matching slim skirt, £145, also royal blue, coffee and black. By Marella from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge SW1; Liberty, Regent Street W1; Madeline Ann, Stourbridge; Alice Kite, Sheffield; Focus, Glasgow. Gauze print shirt in sweet colours by Thierry Mugler, £105 from Brown's Man's Shop, 23 South Molton Street, W1. White cotton piqué artist's beret from Fernwick, New Bond Street, W1.

Hair by Graham Hampe at Leonard, 6 Upper Grosvenor Street, W1. Fashion assistant CHRISTINE PANNELL. Photographs by RICHARD MURIE

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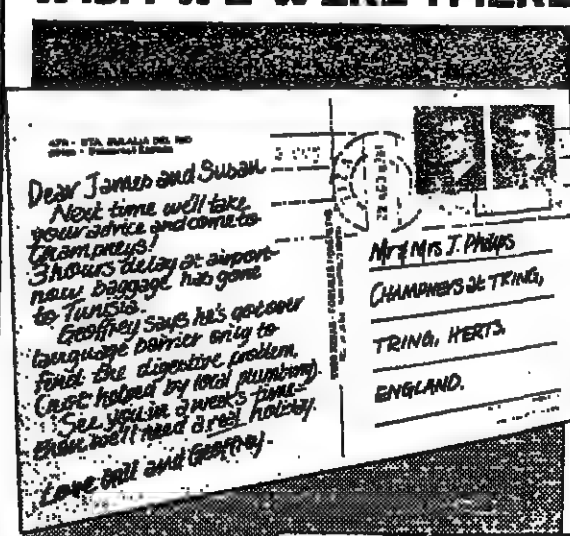
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THE TIMES DIARY

Unwritten law

The long-imprisoned African National Congress leader, Nelson Mandela, will not be a candidate in Friday's election to choose David Steel's successor as rector of Edinburgh University. Despite much protest the university authorities have refused to accept his nomination because he has not signed it. This is hardly Mandela's fault. His prison governor in South Africa refused to let him sign forms delivered to him by Lord Bethell in January - though he accepted the nomination orally. Subsequent letters from his wife and lawyer accepting on his behalf never reached Britain - intercepted, it is presumed, by the South African authorities. Without Mandela, the university's 14,000 students and staff have a less-than-glamorous choice for the office once held by such as Gladstone, Lloyd George, Kitchener, Baldwin and Churchill. The Scottish NUM president, Mick McGahay, unfortunately declined to stand because he thought he would be too busy with the miners' dispute. The former Scottish Nationalist MP, Margo MacDonald, the sports commentator Archie MacPherson and a gallery owner, Richard DeMarco, are standing. So is Tory MP Teddy Taylor. Were Taylor elected it would be the ultimate irony: he is a leading light in the pro-South African Monday Club.

Dropping in

Disregarding all official protocol, President Mitterrand paid an impromptu visit to Britain - well, the British Isles - at the weekend. He visited Hauteville House in Guernsey, the home of Victor Hugo while in exile, but gave neither Sir Charles Frossard, the island's bailiff, nor Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Le Cheminant, lieutenant-governor, any warning. The first they knew of Mitterrand's arrival was a telephone call from an airport policeman who recognized him. Mitterrand was clearly out to enjoy himself on this very private trip: having seen the house, he had a hearty meal of scallops, crab and fruit at Le Frigate restaurant and bought some French scent (cheaper than in Paris) before flying home in his air force jet.

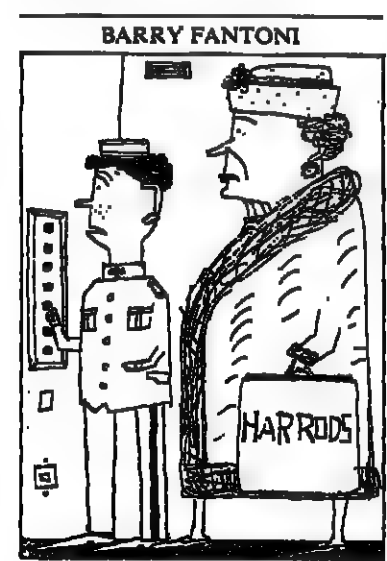
Ex-Services CND is demanding that the prefix RAF be dropped from the country's 11 US Air Force bases, including Molesworth and Greenham. RAF Alconbury for example has, it says, 3,000 American personnel to one-third of an RAF man (a PRO whose responsibilities extend to two other bases).

Daddy's girl

One subject at least must be out of bounds for the family of Lord Thomson of Monifieth: the suppressed 20/20 Vision programme on M15. Lord Thomson, of course, is the chairman of the IBA, which banned it. His daughter Caroline is the Channel Four editor responsible for its commission.

Capped

Arthur Scargill must have been in a bad mood yesterday. He gave a curt "no" when asked by the Cambridge University rag committee to donate to a charity auction tomorrow the baseball cap he was wearing when arrested on the Ogrive picket line. His old adversary, Ian MacGregor, was more generous and sent a signed cartoon. Most generous of all was John Cleese, who sent a cheque for "£5 million or a penny, whichever is the lower".



Barry Fantoni
"Our slogan has always been: You can buy anything from a piano to a camel!"

Low-fliers

Trinity College, Cambridge, sets high standards. I have been sent its annual record for 1984, which lists under "Other Appointments and Distinctions": "R. Gandhi, Prime Minister of India" and "Rt Hon D. R. Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Member of the Cabinet." What, I wonder, does one have to do to make the main list?

All or nothing

Michael Heseltine could be embroiled in another row when he discusses with the Foreign Affairs select committee how it can be given access to the "Crown Jewels" - the definitive, top-secret account of the Belgrano sinking. The committee insists it should see the documents on the same strictly confidential basis as the Fonting trial jury, and believes anything less than full access would be an insult to its integrity and to the whole select committee system. It suspects, however, that Heseltine may merely offer it a "peek" at the documents while in his office. In that event, I understand, key members will walk straight out.

The debate over America's Strategic Defence Initiative programme - better known as "Star Wars" - will inevitably be conducted in somewhat speculative terms until the technologies under investigation have been more thoroughly explored. But pondering the shape of things to come best proceeds from an accurate assessment of present realities. Fact and fancy both play legitimate roles in any effort to probe the future. Let us, however, distinguish between the two.

It is one thing to speculate on the results of research in this area, another to distort the objectives and purposes of the SDI programme in order to attack it. Some critics of SDI, particularly Soviet propagandists, have gone beyond the realm of legitimate speculation to that of myth. By exploding these myths, we can demystify the SDI debate.

Myth No 1 is that the US is giving an impetus to a new arms race in outer space. The reality is that the Soviet Union was the first to develop and test in 1957, intercontinental ballistic missiles which traverse space in flying toward their targets. In the 1960s it developed a fractional orbital bombardment system using an orbiting nuclear warhead - the only such system in the world. The Soviet Union has long deployed the world's only operational anti-satellite (ASAT) system, and has retained a monopoly on such capabilities for well over a decade.

In the area of strategic defence, it is the Soviet Union - and only the Soviet Union - which currently deploys an anti-ballistic missile system involving 100 interceptor missiles deployed around Moscow - a system based on detonating large nuclear warheads in space. Moreover, the Russians have pursued for years an intensive research programme into the more advanced technologies such as lasers and particle beams, some of which are now being explored by the US. Who, then, is guilty of "militarizing" outer space?

Myth upon myth from the critics of Star Wars

by Richard Burt

Myth No 2 is that the US is upsetting an agreed philosophy of "mutual assured destruction" (MAD), upon which strategic stability allegedly rests. The reality is that Moscow has never accepted this philosophy. Soviet military strategy has always emphasized fighting rather than deterrence, and Soviet leaders have long considered strategic defence as a key element of this strategy.

In a revealing exchange at the 1967 summit with President Johnson, President Khrushchev argued that defensive systems were stabilizing and made clear that no Soviet leader would ever abandon projects which held out the possibility of protecting the Soviet people. "The anti-missile system is not a weapon of aggression, of attack," he said. "It is a defensive system."

The Russians' emphasis on defence in their strategic doctrine is reflected in their military programmes. Soviet spending on defensive arms roughly equals that for strategic offensive weapons. The Soviet Union has well over 2,000 interceptor aircraft (the US has roughly 300); more than 6,000 air defence early-warning radars (US 113); and some 10,000 surface-to-air missile launchers (the US has none).

Their civil defence programme is extensive. Moreover, the Russians are upgrading the Moscow anti-bal-

listic missile system and have engaged in other activities suggesting they might be contemplating a nationwide ABM system.

Myth No 3 is that improved defences against ballistic missiles would "decompose" the US from its allies and leave Europe vulnerable to Soviet intimidation. The reality is that the technologies under investigation are applicable to the defence of Europe as well as that of North America. Indeed, in some ways Europe is easier to defend: shorter-range missiles are slower than ICBMs and would be less difficult to intercept.

In any case, the argument which sustains this myth is specious. During the time of US nuclear superiority and relative invulnerability to Soviet attack, the reliability of the US nuclear guarantee to Europe was never questioned. It was the steady Soviet nuclear build-up which caused some to wonder whether a more vulnerable US could continue to guarantee allied defence. SDI is aimed at enhancing deterrence, and thus at increasing strategic stability. Why would an America which sees itself as more secure from attack be a less credible guarantor of Europe's security?

Myth No 4 is that SDI will make arms control more difficult. The reality is that the SDI programme

has already played an important role in bringing Moscow back to the bargaining table on strategic and intermediate-range weapons. Furthermore, the US has already pledged that any move beyond research would - as required by the ABM treaty - be the subject of discussion with the Soviet Union. Indeed, the US is ready now, even as we seek to reduce offensive nuclear arms, to begin talks on ways that improvements in defence technologies can contribute to our mutual security.

The reality is that it is Soviet failure to comply with existing arms-control agreements which jeopardizes the state of arms control. The phased-array radar under construction at Krasnoyarsk - a clear violation of the ABM treaty - is only one example. As treaty compliance is crucial to arms control, one of the American priorities at Geneva will be to reverse the erosion of the ABM treaty.

While many myths have grown up around the SDI programme, perhaps the most egregious distortion is to suggest that the US has abandoned deterrence in favour of a new and untested theory. Nothing could be further from the truth. Deterrence has guaranteed Western security for 40 years, and remains the only credible means to sustain that security for the foreseeable future. Indeed, the Reagan administration's strategic modernization programmes and support within the alliance for medium-range missile deployments are concrete evidence of this conviction.

Suggestions that nuclear deterrence is an unworkable or immoral strategy for preserving the peace miss the main point: the SDI programme is designed to explore long-term means of enhancing deterrence, to which President Reagan remains firmly committed.

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The author is the US State Department's senior specialist on European and Soviet affairs.

After the strike, Paul Routledge forecasts some fresh thinking

Crumbs of comfort for the TUC

The confidential minutes of the TUC's meeting with Mrs Thatcher and her senior Cabinet ministers on the miners' strike two weeks ago record the Prime Minister as observing that "the TUC's judgment was important". Later in the document, she was reported as saying that the Government "must have regard to the TUC's judgment".

These are straws in what some union leaders hope may be a wind of change blowing in relations between organized labour and government. Although it is readily conceded that the miners have been defeated, the TUC has not come out of it too badly. And there may actually be some long-term gains from the bitter conflict over pit closures.

It would be foolish to talk of a new *entente cordiale*, or a new dawn in relations with the Conservative administration, but the TUC's "elder statesman" who tried and failed to win the National Union of Mineworkers over to acceptance of the Coal Board's final offer do not believe that their efforts were a total waste of time.

There will be a comprehensive analysis of the lessons of the coal dispute when the dust has settled on the year-long strike. Some things, however, are already clear. The TUC should have been involved at an earlier date, and the failure of its peace moves this time will encourage the movement's "general staff" to get into the intervention business more quickly next time.

It is taken for granted that there will be a next time. Union leaders scorn the conventional wisdom that the miners' defeat means that no group of workers will dare raise their head over the parapet again. Local government, industry, and the railways are all regarded as likely areas for conflict in the near future, while the teachers' unions are already in action.

There is more to union life than disputes. The TUC has one eye cocked on public opinion about the unions. In recent years, opinion polls demonstrate that the unions have been falling in public esteem. The TUC's constructive role in seeking to arrange a negotiated settlement, and talking to Mrs Thatcher to achieve such an agreement, can only have improved the public perception of the labour movement. It is argued. The TUC



has been associated with social harmony rather than the stone-throwing dimension of the strike.

These are the first thoughts of the TUC leaders at the close of the biggest industrial test since the war. They may not lead to much, and there is no mistaking the very deep sense of personal distress felt by Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, at his inability to get a negotiated settlement. Had he been able to pull it off, it would have been a real coup. It would have boosted his credibility in his first year of office and given him greater clout in the internal politicking of the trade union movement.

But the present generation of leaders will not be around for very long. Of the seven members of the TUC's monitoring group who went to Downing Street for the first "tea and biscuits" summit on an industrial dispute since Mrs Thatcher took office, three are definitely going this year and two more soon after. David Bassett, chairman of the influential econ-

omic committee and guru of the centre right, is retiring. So are Moss Evans, left-wing general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Bill Keys of the print union Sogat. Ray Buckton of the rail footplate union, Aslef, and Jack Eccles, of the General and Municipal Workers, will not be far behind. Only Willis himself and Gerry Russell of the Engineering Workers can expect to enjoy any long-term perspective from their involvement in the NUM dispute.

It is noticeable that without exception the "Magnificent Seven" are all from manual unions. They represent a blue-collar bias that is fast disappearing from the TUC generally and its upper echelons in particular. There will be new faces in six months time and their judgment of the industrial and political scene is likely to command a greater regard from the Government than the men Mrs Thatcher met two weeks ago, because they are likely to be more in tune with ministerial thinking.

This process is already under way.

The TUC has asked affiliated unions to have another look at the movement's attitude towards the new labour laws. The outcome of this review is likely to be a less hostile attitude towards the legislation, including the question of taking public money for ballots before strikes and for the election of union executives.

The miners' strike, called without a picket ballot, has highlighted "A problem of representativeness" (as it is euphemistically called). That is to say, how long can the unions hold out against the practically universal clamour for ballots which comes now not from the politicians but from their members?

The outgoing generation of TUC leaders who did their best to solve the miners' strike has shown the Cabinet that the movement can talk seriously and offer realistic judgments. The newcomers who take over in September may well see the outcome of the coal dispute as a springboard rather than a ducking stool.

Justices said the other day that its ruling should not be interpreted that way.

The new Assembly will not need a two-thirds majority to reject the general's choice of prime minister. A simple majority will do. It does seem unlikely, though, that someone who has played his hand so well up to now would be so foolish as to pick someone who would not be acceptable. A lot will depend on how the Assembly behaves when it first meets formally at the end of this month.

If all general gets his way, and his constitutional amendments and his prime minister are accepted, then the oppressive regulations of martial law will be phased out. The general will take off his uniform, and rule as simple Mr Zia. It seems likely too that his fellow generals now running the province as military governors will continue to do so as civilians.

Discipline should thus be maintained. If it is not, if the assemblies degenerate in faction and obstruction, and if party politics reappears in the streets, above them all will comprise the president and the chiefs of the armed forces, the prime minister, governors and chief ministers. In spirit and voice it will be the present martial law regime reincarnated.

Obviously, his powers will only be advisory. But it could advise that discipline be again broken down and that martial law should be reimposed.

Michael Hamlyn

Pakistan: can discipline survive democracy?

Islamabad On the long straight road leading from Rawalpindi airport to the garden city capital of Islamabad is a slogan emblazoned on an outcrop of rock. It was coined by the founder of the nation, Muhammad Ali Jinnah. It reads: "Unity, faith, discipline".

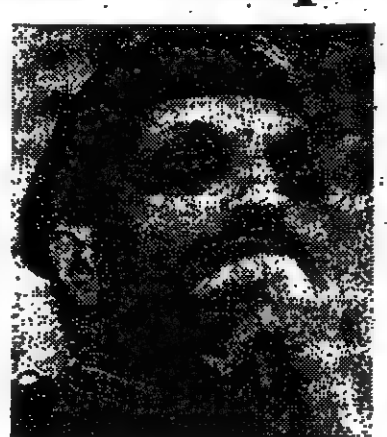
The unity of Pakistan has long been seen as under threat. Many still believe that Baluchistan or Sind would be viable as independent states, and that life would be easier than under the yoke of Punjab, but the threat is not severe.

The Islamic faith is Pakistan's *raison d'être* and has never seriously been questioned. Even Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the former prime minister executed by General Zia's military regime, found it appropriate to appear at this fundamentalist streak in his electorate, even though the capital then was much livelier than the teetotal town of today.

But what has been lacking, if one is to believe the generals, is discipline. Last week's National Assembly election is part of an effort to see if the democratic virtues of participation and popular rule can be combined with the sterner virtues of good order and military discipline. By and large it appears to be succeeding.

"Try not to see our effort through western eyes," General Zia is in the habit of begging western reporters. "Try to see it through Pakistani eyes."

By Pakistani standards, then, the election was peaceful. Only five people died on polling day. It was also one of the quietest on record.



Zia: soon to become a civilian - but no mere figurehead

With the banning of loudhailers, processions and outdoor meetings, there was none of the deafening cacophony of that turmoil, disruption or devastation that usually marks the exercise of the democratic process in these parts.

It should also be said that the election was impartially conducted, and that the result demonstrates the electorate's wishes as far as any democratic system could.

The martial law regime stood back from the hustings, and simply kept order. General Zia regarded himself as having nothing to lose or gain from the election. He reckoned that the referendum in December had legitimized his personal rule for another five years, despite the fact that the people were never explicitly

asked whether they wanted him or not.

The tension between democracy and discipline seems likely to continue, though. The new National Assembly may not be quite as ready to do the general's bidding as he would like. Despite the ban on political parties contesting the election, the successful candidates include a large number of members or former members of parties wholly opposed to the Zia regime.

The one party that had sided with General Zia in the past, the fundamentalist Islamist-Islami, took a beating at the polls and lost many of its most prominent figures. The principal winners appear to have been former members of the Pakistan People's Party, the vehicle of Bhutto's rise to power, and the more centrist Muslim League, led by the somewhat eccentric Pir Sahib Pagaro.

Under the 1973 constitution, which is nominally being restored under the present democratization, the National Assembly has the right to change the constitution, provided it can muster a two-thirds majority vote. As General Zia himself pointed out, this means it has the right to amend, reject or delay the constitutional amendments he has brought forward.

However, Zia has made it clear more than once that he regards himself as being entitled by virtue of his position as chief martial law administrator to amend the constitution. He insists that that right has been endorsed by the country's supreme court, though one of the

justices said the other day that its ruling should not be interpreted that way.

The new Assembly will not need a two-thirds majority to reject the general's choice of prime minister. A simple majority will do. It does seem unlikely, though, that someone who has played his hand so well up to now would be so foolish as to pick someone who would not be acceptable. A lot will depend on how the Assembly behaves when it first meets formally at the end of this month.

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Michael Hamlyn

Roger Scruton

Where blacks would be at home

How representative is the House of Commons? If you were to measure the proportion of club-footed, handsome, schizoid, witty, rabbit-toothed or unworshiped men, you would doubtless find the result to be unrepresentative of the nation. But it is not the task of Parliament to represent groups, especially groups so capriciously defined. Its task is to represent the people, and also the major interests that unite and divide them. The representation of members by the whips is justified only on the assumption that conflicting interests can best be opposed and accommodated through national parties.

Perhaps the most important defect of the arrangement is the resistance of the party system to new interests, and its perpetuation of interests that have long since declined. Members enter the Commons only by ingratiating themselves with the parties. These, however, are controlled by people who have been severed by a lifetime of politics from the realities of ordinary existence. Hence new members must make a show of accepting and acting upon a mythopoetic view of modern society.

Thus, half a century after the disappearance of the traditional class system the Commons is still enacting a battle that might have been scripted by Marx. Wicked Tory capitalists (most of them with working-class accents) face the oppressed proletariat (whose representatives seem to spring largely from Winchester and Balliol). Amusing though this conflict may occasionally be, it can hardly advance the real purpose of Parliament, which is that of representing and accommodating the existing interests of the British people. The impermeability of the parties to new interests is surely one of the major reasons for thinking that the House of Lords and the judiciary are, in the last analysis, far more representative of the people than the House of Commons.

One new set of interests has been excluded from the House with grave and unwelcome consequences: that of the ethnic minorities. The Commons contains no black or yellow faces, even constituencies with vast and concentrated Asian populations are represented by white Anglo-Saxons. Why is this? Why is there not a sizeable minority of Indians, another of blacks, and perhaps a Chinese or two? The fault, I believe, lies with all the principal parties, but mostly with the Tory party, which could provide far greater scope than its rivals for the parliamentary aspirations of the new minorities.

Until now, the demand for minority representation has been directed largely at the Labour Party, as the natural party of opposition. For a long time black pressure groups have been urging that their members be selected for safe Labour seats. But the party has been reluctant to respond, suspecting that a constituency with a black candidate would no longer be safe. It is undeniable that the old-fashioned Labour voters include many who would find in these new circumstances a definite strain on their allegiance. Nevertheless, the Labour Party ought to take the risk. If it does not, its isolation from the real sources of opposition will increase still further, and its credibility enter a final decline.

moreover... Miles Kington

Same old rag, the same old gags

The career of a comic star used to be predictable. He would be a hero of the music-hall for many years, become forgotten, get rediscovered many years later and receive his final accolade in old age by being asked to appear in either *Ubu Roi* or a small Samuel Beckett part. After he died, people would find to their dismay that only five minutes of film existed to perpetuate his act, which turned out to be terrible. He would then be forgotten.

For young comics today, things are very different. The progress from stand-up comedian through TV star to grand old man of the arts, which used to take about 50 years, now takes six at most. Think of Eddie Murphy, who was an obscure club comedian in 1980 and is now the most bankable commodity in Hollywood. The day he appears in a good film he will be sensational. Think of Rik Mayall, once a cult comedian, is now, then a TV star and now a 26 doing Gogol at the National Theatre. Good Lord, Buster Keaton and Max Wall had to be 70 before they were allowed to perform scripts written by foreigners.

If it is now possible to be a grand old man of comedy and still have your whole life in front of you, it suggests that things have changed out of all recognition. But I was witness to two things last week which counter-suggest that nothing much has changed at all, only the speed at which things stay the same.

At 8.45 am last Wednesday, firstly, I had to be at Paddington station and was amazed to find the place filled with vivacious young people dressed in pyjamas or night-dresses, depending on their sex; the girls in pyjamas, even in nighties. Some of them were looting about gently, some were playing in a rock band, but most were selling copies of *St Mary's Hospital Rag Week Magazine*.

I don't know about you, but when I am asked 50p for a stapled-yellow magazine by a medical student who could clearly break both my arms scientifically, I tend to buy several

Rather than join the natural party of opposition, however, ethnic minorities would do better to join the party of government. If the minorities seem to be radicalized, this is partly because of their lack of parliamentary representation.

It is inconceivable that our Asian population as a whole could identify with the polytechnic socialism of the Labour Party or feel that it is in any way representative of the "radical averages" who dominate the party's extra-parliamentary adjuncts. In the temporary favour of discontent the Asian community may sympathize with the party of opposition. But what does a pious Muslim, who believes in family values, single-sex schools, chastity, household property and material success, have to do with the egalitarian ideology of Labour? Surely the Tory party is his natural home, and he has as much claim as the rest of us to be represented within it.

No doubt the Tory party has the same anxiety as Labour concerning the prejudices of its traditional constituents. I suspect, however, that the average Tory voter would stand the test at least as well as the average Labourite, and that the long-term benefit to the party would justify the risk. A safe Labour seat in a constituency with a large number of Asians would cease to be safe if the Tories put up an Asian candidate. And what is true of the Asians is true too of the blacks, who are just as likely, in the long run, to identify with the Tory party. Radical propaganda to the contrary, the blacks have as great an interest in law, education, property and religious values as have the rest of the British people, and if my local black church is any guide, their underlying sentiments are far too conservative to be catered for by the present Labour Party.

Of course, it would be against the spirit of representation to select a candidate purely because of his racial origins. Nevertheless, the ethnic minorities have interests that distinguish them from the rest of the population. As things stand, these interests enter the political equation only after suffering a radical transformation at the hands of the socialist quango. The direct representation of minority interests in Parliament would be better for all of us. The feminist lobby, for example, would lose much of its unrepresentative influence were the Muslim desire for sexual segregation to be recognized in Parliament. The radical reformers of the school curriculum would equally suffer a jolt if the real interest of blacks in educational achievement were expressed in the Commons by someone with a black face.

The radicals tell us that there is a racial conflict in Britain. If this is really so there is no better place for it than the House of Commons, where it can be displayed in theatrical form, heightened, embellished and also resolved. This cathartic function of Parliament much to eliminate class conflict from the national consciousness: there is no reason to think that it could not eliminate racial conflict as well. On the other hand, if the radicals are wrong, and there is no racial conflict in Britain, nothing whatsoever prevents the major races from enriching themselves at the next election, with the vital interests of the new minorities.

The author is editor of the Salisbury Review.

I stayed a while to tap my feet to the wavering tempo of the rock drummer, who was the spitting image of Griff Rhys Jones, and indeed turned out to be Griff Rhys Jones, then went home to get what kind of stuff they write at St Mary's.

I am relieved to say that medical rag mags seem to change after 100 years. They still contain nothing but short, filthy, sexist, vile jokes, some very funny and none reprobable. Medical humour, indeed all rag humour, continues untouched by the satire boom of the 1960s or even the First World War. As basic, raw and invigorating as laboratory alcohol, it has not changed since the first Bart's student tried to think of an obscene way of insulting a Guy's student.

Anyway, the second thing that happened to me was that on Friday night I was present at the first of a season of late-night cabaret events at the Piccadilly Theatre, a splendidly innovative occasion where people sat in their theatre seats clucking drinks, roaring the acts on and having a good old night out. So innovative was it that I suddenly realized they had merely invented music-hall all over again.

Lenny Henry, the very talented comedian who was top of the bill, did a routine that was half witty, imaginative and half good old-fashioned bawdiness. Do comedians do this to get out of their system things they can't say on TV? Certainly. The bluestick I ever heard live was by none other than that suave gent of TV, Dave Allen. And when the zany surrealists stars of *The Young Ones* go on tour, they too tend to ladle out the dirt, as indeed does Eddie Murphy. It is, of course, called adventurously breaking barriers and smashing taboos, if you're young, rebellious and preferably black.

If you're a medical student, on the other hand, it's called bringing out a rag-week magazine. Only the jokes are the same. Always have been. But whatever happened to new-wave humour?

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TOMORROW'S COAL

As the coal strike finally ends for all but the stragglers this morning, the first feelings of Government, National Coal Board, the public at large and the vast majority of miners will be for the coal industry to heal its scars as soon as possible and get on with the job. Even this short-term task will not be easy particularly at the many pits that are simply not in a fit state to resume production for some time. It would in any case take most of this year to bring production back even to the inadequate pre-strike levels of productivity. And meantime, as the Energy Secretary hinted yesterday, there will be difficult decisions about whether to invest precious funds to bring back into production damaged pits which were previously uneconomic.

In such circumstances, it was understandable that both Mr Peter Walker in the House of Commons and Mr Ian MacGregor, the coal board chairman at the Coal Industry Society, made anodyne statements about the future yesterday. Yet it would be highly dangerous if either the coal board or the Government were now, for the sake of harmony, to sit back or to suppose a return to pre-strike "normality" was a goal in itself.

The coal industry may have two years of breathing space from its long-term economic problems as production builds up to meet running demand and to rebuild stocks. But that is only a short time. And if the industry is to meet the challenges that lie beyond that, both the coal board and the Government must start planning and implementing drastic changes from today.

Mr MacGregor, it may still be recalled, was installed at the NCB to reduce and eventually eliminate the annual £1 billion

subsidies from the taxpayer that had become institutionalized by the operation of the 1974 Plan for Coal.

Instead of accelerating the programme of closures of uneconomic pits under his predecessor Sir Norman Siddall, Mr MacGregor has lost a year. Even the modest plan to eliminate 4 million tonnes of capacity, introduced a year ago (which precipitated the strike), is back on the drawing board. It faces a year more cumbersome and lengthy review procedure under the board's agreement with the pit deputies union Nacods.

While the board will try to expand markets and will be helped by devaluation of sterling, it faces an inevitable switch to more nuclear power ten years hence and lower oil prices meanwhile. Outside estimates that some 25 million tonnes of old capacity will need to be phased out by the early 1990s do not look extravagant.

Mr MacGregor has his own plans to restructure the coal board's operations to turn it into an efficient long-term low-cost producer. These include the classic principles of decentralizing management, cutting away the bureaucratic headquarters and the old system it stands for.

The Government will certainly want to see this happen with some speed. It will also have learnt the lesson from the strike that reforming the NCB is no longer enough. The year-long dispute has reinforced the lesson of history that a state monopoly is a wholly unsuitable structure for the British coal industry, whether seen in terms of efficiency, subsidy, industrial peace or security of energy supplies for the nation. The miners may not take on the Government for some time, but

the dispute proved the power of the pit deputies union should it ever come under the same kind of influence as the NUM. While there may be administrative ways to break the Nacods veto, this too argues for a thorough restructuring of the industry.

The most sensible framework so far suggested for such a restructuring would be to separate the coal board's commercial functions as a producer from its monopoly-enhancing functions as regulator of the small private sector, its role as owner of coal reserves and its consequent social role covering anything from environmental damage dating from production decades ago to the provision of aid to pit communities which face real threats to their future from necessary closures. This job needs to be taken more seriously than hitherto.

If the regulatory and social roles were taken on by a National Coal Trust, which let out extraction rights, the way would be open straightaway to privatize the opencast operations of the NCB, which are highly profitable and in any case carried out by contractors.

At the same time the ground should be laid to privatize the more viable deep-mining areas, in the most suitable way for an industry with the history of British coal, which is to sell them to miners. Nottingham and other Midlands areas look suitable for this progress, but much depends on changes at the NUM and conventional privatization may need to be held in reserve. Removing two fifths of production from the monopoly of the NCB in this way would do far more for the prospects of a prosperous expanding coal industry than any restructuring within the state monopoly.

Longer labours in the Lords

From Lord Shackleton

Sir, In the Lobby Reporter's article of February 25 on "MPs forced into more post-midnight sittings" it was suggested that, in contrast to the House of Commons, "the House of Lords uses its expertise to avoid long hours". Alas, the suggestion that the Lords are able by skilful management of business to avoid late sittings is no longer true.

This is, I have to add, not the fault of the business managers in the House of Lords, but rather the failure over a period of years under governments of both parties to organize the business of the two Houses and in particular the Government legislative programme satisfactorily.

Last session, for example, the House of Lords sat for more hours, with a higher average length of sittings, a higher average daily attendance and more sittings after 10pm than ever before.

One reason for this is that to discover, with a large Government majority in the Commons, legislation often reaches the Lords after inadequate consideration and last session saw major amendments made in the Lords to most Government Bills from the Commons (except financial legislation) of which those to the Local Government (Interim Provisions) Bill were only the most memorable because they caused the biggest political storm. A total of 1,818 amendments was made in the Lords to public legislation.

Gone are the days which I remember when I first came to the House as one of the original creation of life peers in 1958 when the House often rose at tea-time, Monday sittings were a rarity, Friday sittings unknown and sittings after 10pm were very unusual. It was a different world.

Yours faithfully,
SHACKLETON,
House of Lords,
February 28.

Purpose of Anzuz

From Mr Rod Edmond

Sir, Your editorial (February 27) on the New Zealand Government's refusal to allow ships carrying nuclear weapons into its waters unwittingly gives away the reality of an alliance such as Anzuz. The only serious consequence for New Zealand of a weakening of Anzuz that you mention is that of American retaliation. The real threat to a weak partner seems to come from its dominant ally.

Of course the New Zealand Government does not wish to weaken Anzuz and argues, quite correctly, that its policy on nuclear armed ships does not breach the treaty. However, some New Zealanders have long wondered whose interest the American connection really serves.

During the Vietnam years it was claimed to be New Zealand's defence against China. More recently it has been said to be its defence against the Russian threat in the Pacific. American reprisals along the lines suggested by your editorial would convince a great many more New Zealanders that their "friends" can be more dangerous than their "enemies".

Yours faithfully,
ROD EDMOND,
3 Roper Road,
Canterbury, Kent.

Liberals and Polaris

From the President of the Liberal Party

Sir, In the third of his articles on the Alliance (February 27) George Brock writes: "The Liberals (since last year's conference)... want to cancel Polaris: the SDP does not".

At last year's Liberal Assembly delegates voted down a proposal to scrap Polaris forthwith. They affirmed the party's commitment "to a step-by-step process of disarmament" which would mean "including Polaris in arms-control negotiations".

Given the transparent eagerness of the Tory Party to caricature the Liberal Party as the "unilateralist wing" of the Alliance, it is important to set the record straight.

The Liberal Party's resolution at last year's assembly was not unilateralist. What it did was to distinguish between our commitment to a "step-by-step process of disarmament" and the Government's commitment to a process of rearmament, a process both morally and economically unsound. Of course, the Liberal Party has always been and remains committed to Britain's continuing membership of Nato.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN J. WATSON, President,
The Liberal Party,
2 Retreat Road,
Richmond upon Thames, Surrey.

Nuclear deterrence

From Admiral Sir Ian Easton

Sir, The central purpose of Trident is to make clear to the Soviet Union that a major nuclear strike on the United Kingdom would result in a retaliatory strike that would do damage, e.g. the destruction of Moscow and other major Russian cities, that would be unacceptable to the Soviet Government.

For this purpose the deterrent must be invulnerable to pre-emptive strike and therefore submarine-based.

Pace Admiral Jungius, (February 15) this is a purpose crucial to our national security that no amount of conventional forces could achieve.

Double jeopardy in the pits dispute

From Mr M. E. Edwards

Sir, The answer to Mr Robert Appleby's astonishing question about morality today (March 1) is this: the court's sentence is a punishment for committing the crime; the burden of the crime falls upon the victim and, in the vast majority of cases, remains uncompensated. The wrongdoer has a two-fold obligation; to atone by way of punishment for the crime and to compensate the victim. Unless and until he fulfils that second obligation he remains in debt to society and has paid part only of the penalty.

In most of these coal cases we are not, for the most part, considering petty pilfering (though the principle would not be different if we were). Of some 709 dismissals by the Coal Board some 430 were concerned with vandalism and violence, resulting in intended losses of equipment and property to the Coal Board and others of many hundreds of thousands of pounds. I have yet to hear of any offer of compensation, no matter how inadequate, from either the wrongdoers or the NUM.

These men might well undertake, in return for receiving their jobs back, to permit a substantial deduction from their wages in compensation for the deliberate damage they inflicted until the debt was satisfied. The NUM might well help their affected members by suitable payments from their many millions of pounds of assets, thereby

showing their regret in a practical form, though I can well understand objections from many innocent members.

Failing such voluntary action it is ludicrous to expect re-employment as if nothing had happened and an insult to the non-striking miners. It is an insult, moreover, to those very many enforced and unwilling shareholders of the coal business within the British public who will be the uncompensated victims of those who have paid part only of their proper penalties.

Yours faithfully,
M. E. EDWARDS,
The Bridge House,
10 Fort Road,
Guildford,
Surrey,
March 1.

From Mr C. J. Saville Glanville
Sir, When a solicitor is convicted of dishonesty he is struck off, not as a second punishment, but because he has shown himself unfit to be a solicitor. With respect to Mr Robert Appleby the dismissal of a convicted employee is not a second punishment, but a recognition of the fact that he has shown himself unfit to hold his position and, in many cases, has also broken his contract with his employer.

Yours,
C. J. SAVILLE GLANVILLE,
Pearl Assurance House,
Temple Row,
Birmingham,
March 1.

Queen and 'The Times'

From Mrs Ann Patterson

Sir, Ever since I learned to read I have been a regular reader of *The Times*. During this time, about 60 years, the paper has had various proprietors and editors and I have liked some more than others, but none have ever allowed the paper to become involved in such a serious breach of trust and in bringing the monarchy into the political arena at a very sensitive and unsuitable time.

The Queen's father and grandfather would probably not have incurred the risks which the Queen did when attending your celebration because their relations with their subjects were more formal, but there were other members of the Royal Family whose activities could have been exploited to gain a journalistic

coup and no advantage was taken of this by your predecessors.

The monarchy has become more enlightened and popular. Journalistic standards have declined. There will soon be no paper that I can read with pleasure.

Yours faithfully,
ANN PATTERSON,
43 Campden Hill Square, W8,
March 1.

From Mr Greg Waggett

Sir, I don't know what line *The Times* takes on caning, but I think the lot of you should take six of the best - at least!

Yours faithfully,
GREG WAGGETT,
18 Cotswold Way,
Huntington,
York,
March 4.

VE Day celebrations

From the Bishop of Southwark and others

Sir, The change of heart of the Government on the subject of VE Day celebrations is most welcome. It is of very great importance that we treat with equal friendship and respect all our wartime allies and our former enemies, as we gather together in church services and at the Cenotaph to pay tribute to all the dead killed in the war, on both sides and to dedicate ourselves to the preservation of the peace won at such a cost.

It would be appropriate if flowers and wreaths were presented on behalf of all the national groups who suffered in the war - ourselves in this country, our Commonwealth allies, our allies in Europe, our Soviet and our United States allies, our German, Italian and Japanese former enemies, and the Jewish people who lost six million lives in the Holocaust of Hitler's tyranny.

As a great and generous nation we do not need to fear what other people will think of us in this matter. "With charity toward all and with malice toward none," let us do that which seems right to us in the sight of God, in whose hands are all the dead of all the combatants.

At cenotaphs and other memorials we shall be upon the mountain tops; our quarrels are for the valleys. Let us therefore act in a way that will unite us, and use this occasion as a time of prayer for peace and reconciliation today.

Yours etc,
BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK,
† MICHAEL BOWEN,
† DERRICK CAMBRIDGE,
† CLAUDE GILLMAN, Minister,
St Giles Cathedral,
BERNARD THOROGOOD, General Secretary,
United Reformed Church,
JOHN REARDON, Church and Society Secretary,
United Reformed Church,
BERNARD GREEN, General Secretary,
The Baptist Union,
GORDON BARRITT, President,
Methodist Conference,
ALAN WESTER, Dean of St Paul's,
MARTIN DENT, University of Leeds.

Bishop of the House,
38 Tooting Bec Gardens,
Streatham, SW16,
February 26.

Tongue-tripping

From Mr Peter Judge

Sir, My wife specialises in apt malapropisms. She calls them "figments of speech".

Yours faithfully,
PETER JUDGE,
10 Bewley Court,
176 Brixton Hill, SW2,
February 27.

Pace Mgr Bruce Kent

(February 12), "positive evidence of" our "willingness to use" Trident in the above circumstances is not necessary. The Soviets could not afford to assume that we would not.

Trident will thus take over from Polaris the task of ensuring that the United Kingdom is not vulnerable to Soviet nuclear blackmail or to an elimination nuclear strike.

The security it provides is cheap at the price.

Yours faithfully,
IAN EASTON,
Creswell Cottage,
Freshwater,
Isle of Wight,
February 21.

Arab-Israeli conflict

From Mr J. Billington

Sir, Your leader (February 19) on the Soviet-American talks in Vienna surely confuses two separate issues - the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the rolling back of latter-day colonialism. All people concerned with human justice must deplore the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, but to make the resolution of this conflict a precondition for discussing an older and more obdurate problem is to stand events in the Middle East on their head.

Tension in the Middle East originates from the injustice done to the Palestinian people in the formation of a new state out of their land and without their acquiescence, brought about largely by American pressure and sustained by American aid. We in the West may think otherwise, but to all Arabs and to most Third World countries Israel appears as a satellite strategically located for the benefit of the West.

The regime we deplore in Iran came about as a reaction against the influence of the Great Satan, as the US is perceived in that strategic region.

Attempted genocide of the Tibetan people and the massive destruction of Tibetan culture by Chinese Communists did not stop Britain or America from talking to the Chinese. And if the Russians forcibly occupy Afghanistan, what has the US done to prevent the forcible occupation and settlement of the West Bank?

Peace and stability will never come to the Middle East until justice is done to the Palestinian people and any attempt to grapple with this intransigent problem is to be applauded: let there be no preconditions put in the way of any movement towards a possible settlement.

Yours sincerely,
J. BILLINGTON,
10 Burlington Road,
Repton,
Derbyshire,
February 21.

Broadcasting's future

From Mr Tegwyn Watkins

Sir, Methinks some people unknowingly endeavour to misrepresent the position regarding television in Wales (letter, February 27). There are some 60 hours of English language television on four channels (including S4C) directed daily to West Wales with only some 4½ hours a day for Welsh language transmissions which are solely on S4C.

The direction of the Welsh language programmes to S4C enabled the BBC and ITV to keep their channels entirely in English, which was a satisfactory compromise for the non-Welsh speaking majority in Wales who, in the past, had complained that Welsh language programmes had cut across their viewing of favourite items on the popular channels.

My television viewing is of the Welsh language programme on S4C; they give me worldwide news, commentaries on international affairs and a good variety of programmes in Welsh. I have no need to turn to English language programmes and am thus able to watch television in the language spoken by the majority of people in Gwynedd and in other parts of Wales - it is an extension of our day-to-day normal use of Welsh as the lingua franca.

Owing to English influence (mainly governmental over the

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 5 1890
An Act for the construction of a railway bridge over the Firth of Forth was passed in June 1882 and work commenced the following January. The bridge was formally opened on March 4 1890. The length of it, excluding approaches, is 1,783 yards. In its construction 54,160 tons of steel, 21,000 tons of cement and 6.5m rivets were used. The greatest number of men employed at one time was 5,000; 57 lives were lost by accident during the seven years' work.

OPENING OF THE FORTH BRIDGE

EDINBURGH, MARCH 4

The ceremony of formally opening the Forth Bridge was performed to-day by the Prince of Wales under the most favourable circumstances. The occasion was certainly worthy of the distinguished sponsorship accorded to it. The successful completion of the greatest engineering work of modern times was deserving of Royal and national recognition, and that is what the presence of the Prince of Wales, as the representative of the Queen, has given to it to-day. This was evidently the uppermost thought in the minds of the hundreds of guests who accompanied the directors in their interesting journey, and of the thousands of spectators who assembled on both shores of the Firth of Forth to witness the proceedings.

The first train reached the Forth Bridge Station at a quarter past 11, and without stopping steamed along the bridge. The passage of this train was received with general cheering as it was supposed to carry the Royal party. It crossed at a leisurely pace so that the occupants of the carriage had good opportunities of seeing the frame work of the bridge and the magnificent views of the Firth and the surrounding country which it afforded. At that time a heavy wind was blowing, and the few pedestrians allowed on the bridge had difficulty in keeping their feet, and still more in retaining their hats. The gale howled and whistled about the upper tiers and girders of the bridge, but not the slightest motion was felt. On reaching the north side the visitors had a pleasant glimpse of the trim coastguard station, which was gaily decorated. The train went as far as Inverleith where it was shunted to the low level line which runs to Queensferry Pier, where all left the train and awaited the arrival of the second portion, which reached the Forth Bridge Station about 26 minutes past 11.

In a minute the Royal train, by the special desire of the Prince of Wales, who was anxious to examine the details of the structure, steamed very slowly across the bridge. As seen from the shore the passage of the train made it possible to form an idea by comparison of the vast dimensions of the bridge. The long train of large saloon carriages seemed a mere toy as it passed through the stupendous framework of tubes and girders at Inverleith. This train also was shunted to the low level line and made its way to North Queensferry Pier. There the steam launch Dolphin was in waiting to convey the Royal party and the directors over the Firth and to afford a view of the bridge from the sea. Though the wind had moderated it was still blowing strongly, and several heavy seas were shipped, which drenched a few of the unwary passengers. The Dolphin was soon followed by the William Muir, containing the rest of the company. Both vessels steamed out into the middle of the Firth. The view of the bridge from below was much enjoyed, as each cantilever was passed in succession, the junction of the girder bridges with the cantilever arms being specially noted. One or two policemen stationed at Inverleith and several men appeared like flies on the bars of an enormous cage. The steamers, which were accompanied by a whole fleet of excursion boats, passed under the southern main span and then returned by the sea. The Royal Highness by Lord Tweeddale, Lord Rosebery and Mr. Arrol. The hydraulic riveter was swung from one of the booms, the pressure being supplied from an accumulator at Inverleith, and two men were placed on the boom below to manipulate the machine. The girder rivet having been placed in the bolt hole and the silver key having been inserted, the Royal Highness by Lord Tweeddale, the Prince with Mr. Arrol's assistance, finished the work in a few seconds, amid cheers. The river is in the outside of the boom and holds together three plates. Around its gilded top there is an inscription, pointing out that it is the "last rivet driven in by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, 4th March, 1890".

years, the Welsh-speaking population has gone from 90 per cent in 1851 to 50 per cent in 1901 to 37 per cent in 1931 to 26 per cent in 1961 to 19 per cent in 1981, but miraculously there are still half a million Welsh speakers in Wales, with many more on the borders and beyond, and I would hope your correspondent is not wishing to follow his English forebears in endeavouring to deny the use of the vernacular to HM loyal citizens who speak the old British tongue.

Surely we should all join to nurture the Welsh language and its rich literature, making this to be one of the most valuable parts of our joint British heritage. Yours faithfully,
TEGWYN WATKINS,
Cyncoed, Lôn Meirion,
Bangor, Gwynedd.

Royal blue?

From Dr Paul J. Fray

Sir, I was delighted to read (report, March 2) that the Prince of Wales has become a blood donor, what a marvellous example this sets. However, I could not fail to be amused by your comment that the royal blood is not to be specially labelled. Surely, it will be identifiable by its colour?

Yours faithfully,
P. J. FRAY,
39 Elysian Avenue, Cambridge,
March 2.

THE ISSUE IS THE MAN

Just two months after his unprecedented success at the polls in the December General Elections, Rajiv Gandhi and his Congress Party are in the middle of a second set of crucial elections. Under India's Federal constitution governments for half the country's 22 states are to be chosen, and over two thirds of the population will cast its vote in the poll which ends today. Once again the front runner is Mr Gandhi's party. If Congress were to achieve another landslide victory its domination of Indian politics would be complete.

As was previously true of his mother, Rajiv Gandhi is himself the issue this election is about. The high moral tone of his premiership along with the romance of his youthful age and informal charm has certainly enthralled the electorate. Perhaps when the results come in this could prove to be sufficient. In that event it would be a victory for the Prime Minister's personality. His performance in office, however, might call for an altered verdict.

Mr Gandhi's December mandate was won on a promise to cleanse India's public life. Indeed, his first step was to ban the opportunistic defection of legislators whose personal lust for power and money was repeatedly sufficient to topple their own elected governments in favour of an opposition party which had promised them better. In 1983, there can be little doubt that her son's determination to stop the rot was in large measure influenced by his own concern to maintain intact his 403 MPs in the Lok Sabha. Yet, as an achievement it is no less for that.

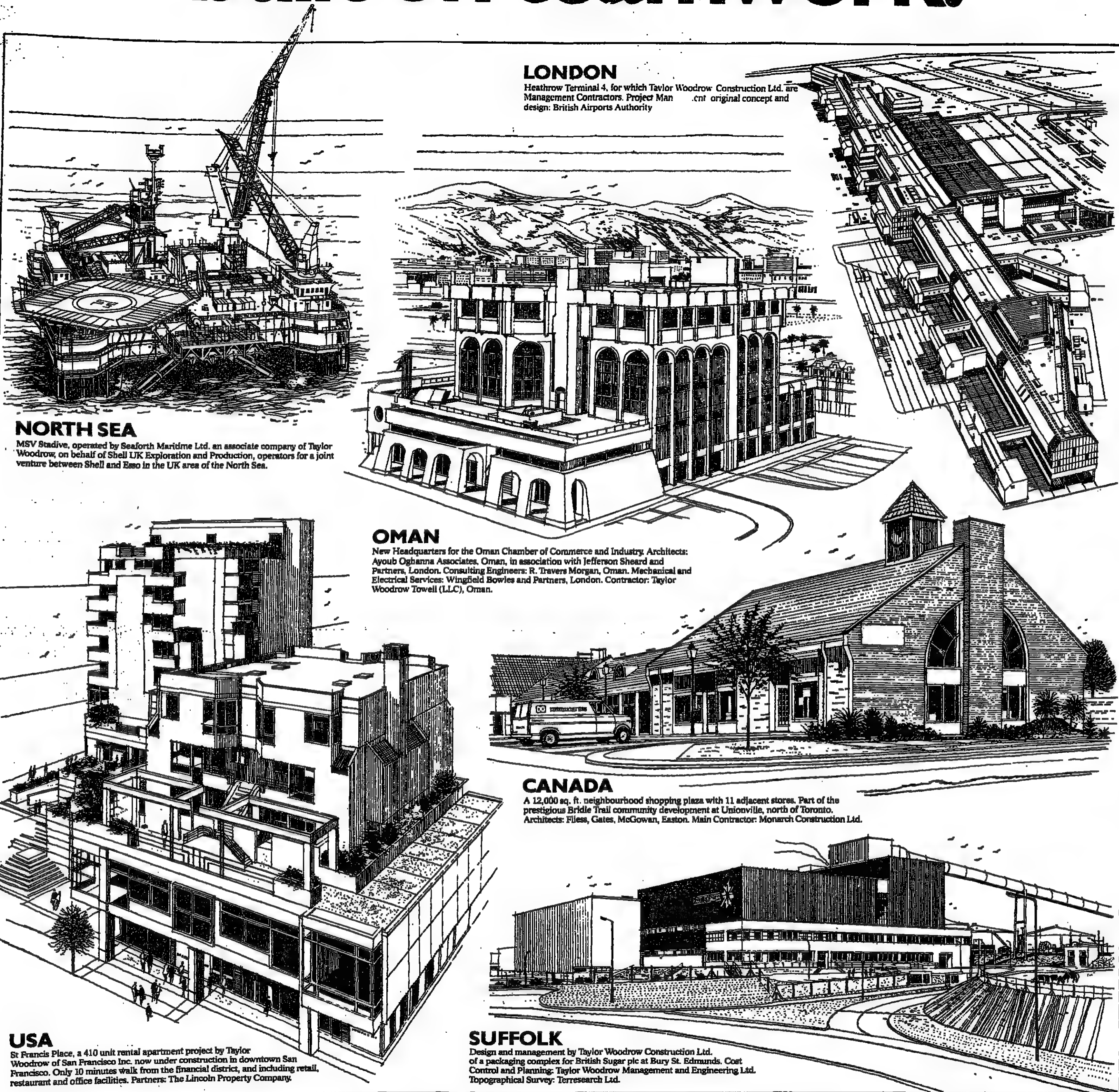
What is a pity, however, is that he has so far resisted the logic of his own morality by refusing to allow his allies in Kashmir, who came to office entirely on the support of such defections, to be dismissed.

In the wake of his December triumph, Rajiv Gandhi had the opportunity and the ability to reopen effective negotiations with the Akali Sikh leaders whom his mother had put under arrest. In fact, it was hoped that the commission appointed within

days of assuming office would do just that. The Government's strength would have allowed concessions. The Prime Minister's popularity would have ensured their nationwide acceptance. But, instead, the momentum has fizzled out. Even more bewildering was the Prime Minister's personal response to the widespread Sikh demand for a formal commission of inquiry into the November riots following Mrs Gandhi's assassination, in which an estimated 2,500 met their deaths.

The Prime Minister's critics today point to such lapses over the Punjab issue as evidence of his unsuitability for high office. But theirs is a hasty judgment, made more in pique than impartiality. It is however evidence of a certain lack of experience and understanding. Until he can overcome this, regardless of whether he wins the forthcoming state elections or not, Rajiv Gandhi will be destined to have his actual performance unfavourably compared to his potential.

A worldwide reputation built on teamwork.



LONDON

Heathrow Terminal 4, for which Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd. are Management Contractors. Project Manager: Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd. original concept and design: British Airports Authority

NORTH SEA

MSV Stadvig, operated by Seaforth Maritime Ltd., an associate company of Taylor Woodrow, on behalf of Shell UK Exploration and Production, operators for a joint venture between Shell and Esso in the UK area of the North Sea.

OMAN

New Headquarters for the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Architects: Ayoub Oghanna Associates, Oman, in association with Jefferson Sheard and Partners, London. Consulting Engineers: R. Travers Morgan, Oman. Mechanical and Electrical Services: Wingfield Bowles and Partners, London. Contractor: Taylor Woodrow Towell (LLC), Oman.

CANADA

A 12,000 sq. ft. neighbourhood shopping plaza with 11 adjacent stores. Part of the prestigious Bridle Trail community development at Unionville, north of Toronto. Architects: Fless, Gates, McGowan, Easton. Main Contractor: Monarch Construction Ltd.

USA

St Francis Place, a 410 unit rental apartment project by Taylor Woodrow of San Francisco Inc. now under construction in downtown San Francisco. Only 10 minutes walk from the financial district, and including retail, restaurant and office facilities. Partners: The Lincoln Property Company.

SUFFOLK

Design and management by Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd. of a packaging complex for British Sugar plc at Bury St. Edmunds. Cost Control and Planning: Taylor Woodrow Management and Engineering Ltd. Topographical Survey: Terresearch Ltd.

There is no easy road to success. Frank Taylor began in 1921, building his first pair of houses in Blackpool (which are still in excellent condition).

A modest beginning which grew into what is now recognised as one of the finest worldwide construction, engineering and development companies.

Working in all five continents, Taylor Woodrow are actively promoting the very best of modern technology, encouraging our expertise to develop

its full potential, through free enterprise and teamwork.

The success of this philosophy is amply demonstrated by the range and variety of projects in which Taylor Woodrow team workers are currently involved.

The kind of teamwork that builds worldwide reputations.

If you need help with an overseas project, please contact Bob Tippins on 01-997 6641 and for the UK, contact Ted Page on 01-575 4354.



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THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Your guilt or less
ELECTRICALS		
1	BSR	
2	Emoss Lighting	
3	Logica	
4	Piko	
5	Energy Serv	
6	Amstar	
7	Crysalis	
8	Roadster	
9	Danserv	
10	Micro Focus	
BREWERIES		
11	Allied-Lyons	
12	Vaux	
13	Bell (Arthur)	
14	Greengill Whitley	
15	Behaven	
16	Whitbread 'A'	
17	Forbes Burton	
18	Brown (Matthew)	
19	Greene King	
20	Distillers	
INSURANCE		
21	Refuge	
22	Ldn Utd Inv	
23	Britannic	
24	Equity & Law	
25	Manet	
26	Wills, Faber	
27	Sun Life	
28	Sedgwick Gp	
29	Com Union	
30	Sun Alliance	
DRAPERY & STORES		
31	Debenhams	
32	Smiths Mothercare	
33	Lacraft Kilgour	
34	Dixons	
35	MFI	
36	Ward White	
37	Steinberg	
38	Grattan	
39	Wigoll (Henry)	
40	GUS	

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £40,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

1984/85 High Low Company Price Ch'ge price % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge price	%	P/E
1.10	1.05	BSR	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Emar Lighting	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Logica	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Pico	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Energy Serv	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Amstar	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Crysalis	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Roadster	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Danserv	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Micro Focus	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Alfred Lyons	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Vaux	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Bell (Arthur)	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Greengill Whitley	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Behaven	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Whitbread 'A'	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Forbes Burton	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Brown (Matthew)	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Greene King	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Distillers	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Refuge	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Ldn Utd Inv	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Britannic	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Equity & Law	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Manet	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Wills Pater	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Sun Life	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Sedgwick Gr	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Com Union	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Sun Alliance	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge price	%	P/E
1.10	1.05	BSR	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Emar Lighting	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Logica	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Pico	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Energy Serv	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Amstar	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Crysalis	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Roadster	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Danserv	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Micro Focus	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Alfred Lyons	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Vaux	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Bell (Arthur)	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Greengill Whitley	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Behaven	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Whitbread 'A'	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Forbes Burton	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Brown (Matthew)	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Greene King	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Distillers	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Refuge	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Ldn Utd Inv	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Britannic	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Equity & Law	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Manet	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Wills Pater	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Sun Life	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Sedgwick Gr	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Com Union	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Sun Alliance	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge price	%	P/E
1.10	1.05	BSR	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Emar Lighting	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Logica	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Pico	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
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1.10	1.05	Roadster	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Danserv	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Micro Focus	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
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1.10	1.05	Wills Pater	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Sun Life	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Sedgwick Gr	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Com Union	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5
1.10	1.05	Sun Alliance	1.10	0.05	4.5	10.5

UNDATED

BREWERIES						
1984/85		Company	Price	Current price		
High	Low			Ch'ge	%	P/E
170	138	Asahi	178	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Beck's	164	+10	18.4	3.7
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
170	138	Carlsberg (Denmark)	158	+	10.0	5.6
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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Music from Egypt in Fraser ears

There was one truly Scottish moment during Sunday's long deliberations in the Grosvenor House Hotel when one House of Fraser director asked the simple question: "I assume the Al-Fayeds have got the money?" John MacArthur, head of the Kleinwort Benson team advising the three Egyptian brothers who yesterday bid 400p a share for House of Fraser, conceded that he would be in a large hole if they hadn't. He felt sure however, that they would find the £431 million they would need to buy the 70.1 per cent of Fraser shares they do not already own.

Nonetheless there is a problem about the identity of Muhammad, Ali and Salah Al-Fayed in the sense that not too much is known about them. Plainly they are rich; they are international in their business dealings; they list their family interests as, in particular, ship-owning, luxury hotels (including the Ritz in Paris), construction, oil, oil services, banking and property.

The company bidding for House of Fraser, and with it of course, the jewel in the British retailing crown, Harrods, is private: Al-Fayed Investment and Trust (UK). The brothers vigorously reject any suggestion that they are acting for others, perhaps richer than themselves. They have gone to extraordinary lengths to deny that they have connections in the House of Fraser context, with Lorrho and his chief executive, Roland "Tiny" Rowland from whom they bought their 29.9 per cent stake in Fraser in November last year. They wish to be loved and understood.

Conjecture and argument on these and other points will continue but one thing that brooks no argument is their determination to own the House of Fraser, in particular Harrods.

Although the price they are willing to pay and the earnings multiple (24) which it represents looks high, no one would seriously doubt that House of Fraser as a group is now in a far better condition for profitable development than it has ever been. While the potential for profitable international exploitation of the Harrods name is almost limitless.

The Al-Fayeds are clearly traders but if their word is their bond, they will remain attached to Fraser-Harrods to just this side of eternity.

Al-Fayed Investment and Trust "regards Harrods as an integral part of the group. It intends to retain the present structure of the group (and) to allow the management of House of Fraser extensive autonomy," in the words of Muhammad Al-Fayed

himself: "It should be understood that our commitment to House of Fraser is long term. We are determined to retain our present holding. We will also retain all additional shares we acquire, whatever the level of our ultimate holding."

All this, and much more in yesterday's statement, is music in the ears of Professor Roland Smith, the Fraser chairman, and Mr Ernest Sharp (not to mention the rest of the board), who since August 1980 have fought an exhausting defensive campaign against Tiny Rowland's single-minded pursuit of the company. Under the benign and constructive ownership, as they currently envisage it, of the Al-Fayeds, or at worst with the Al-Fayeds sufficiently entrenched to ward off Mr Rowlands or any other unwanted predator, they see expanding horizons for the group and a far more rewarding management experience for themselves and their colleagues.

There is still however, a crossing of fingers and stalling the air. The Fraser board's recommendation of the Al-Fayeds' offer is conditional - effectively on the absence of unforeseen circumstances. This attitude is shared by S. G. Warburg, who are not only Fraser's advisers but also substantial shareholders in Fraser (15 per cent).

The unforeseen which they and it would appear from their conditions, the Al-Fayeds also, have in mind are three: higher offers from elsewhere, which are likely to be discouraged by the Al-Fayeds' insistence that they will stick with their present 29.9 per cent come what may; war manoeuvres by the redoubtable Tiny Rowlands; and obstacles to the bid put up by the Government.

Despite Mr Rowland's assertions to the contrary, the Al-Fayeds are free to bid without waiting either for the Office of Fair Trading's clearance of their original 29.9 per cent purchase or from the Secretary of State's judgment, and action if any, on the Monopolies Commission's report into Lorrho's attempt last May to pack the Fraser board with its own nominees.

Norman Tebbit may or may not choose this moment to free Lorrho from the restriction, imposed in 1981, on its freedom to bid for Fraser. There may be an official decision to refer the Al-Fayeds' bid to the Monopolies Commission. As the offer document is expected to go out early next week, it would be as well if Mr Tebbit would clear the air with a minimum of delay.

Why pit peace means danger

When the miners' strike was running it was clearly in the Government's interests to make it appear that the economic effects were minimal. Now that the strike is all but over, the opposite is true.

The economic effects of the strike divide, not always neatly, into direct costs and psychological impact on the markets.

The latter can be dismissed fairly quickly. The pound's muted reaction to the news of the ending of the strike shows that there was very little strike effect left in sterling. Indeed, the main fear yesterday was that the ending of the strike would be bad for the pound because of the marginal impact on oil demand.

The coal strike may have been an unhelpful background factor in some of the sterling and interest rate crises of recent months, but it rarely moved markets on its own. Even so, the absence of a helpful pre-Budget sterling bounce will have disappointed Treasury ministers.

The direct costs, inevitably for a one-year strike, are more important. New official figures on costing will not be published until March 19, although there did not seem to be any evidence of a quarrel in Whitehall yesterday with the £3 billion figure calculated by Gavyn Davies of Simon & Coates.

The more that this year's PSBR overshoot can be put down to the coal strike, the more Mr Lawson's target for

next year will look credible. After all, a PSBR outturn of £10-11 billion does not look too disastrous if £3 billion of it is as a result of the strike.

The difficulty is that there will be other important carry-over effects into the next financial year. The danger is that, on these, the Chancellor will be as hazy on Budget Day as he was on the running costs during the strike.

These carry-over costs are in three main categories. In the first comes the repair and making good of the damage to coal faces, the replacement of machinery, the overhaul of power stations, and the recommencement of the National Coal Board's investment programme.

Precise costs are clearly impossible to estimate at this stage, but a figure of the order of £500 million has been talked about. Secondly, rebuilding pithead and power station coal stocks to pre-strike levels would cost £800 - £1,000 million. Even if it is assumed that stocks are only built up to half their levels before the strike, there is still a £400 - £500 million cost.

Finally, and also at this stage unquantifiable, are the permanent effects of the strike on NCB markets. In the long-term they may mean that the pit closure programme is chasing a target that is moving downwards. In 1985-86 they will mean that NCB losses are higher than they otherwise would be.

Pound falls 10 points as oil fears overshadow coal vote

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

The pound failed to get a lift from the ending of the miners' strike yesterday. It closed 10 points down at \$1.0705 in London, later falling to £1.0680 in New York.

The Treasury published figures showing that the United Kingdom's official reserves fell by an underlying \$218 million to \$15,353 million (£14,189 million) in February. The small fall was generally interpreted as a sign that the Bank of England had intervened only modestly against the dollar last week.

The initial reaction of the foreign exchange markets to the return to work vote of the delegate conference of the National Union of Mineworkers was to mark the pound up. In Far East trading it reached \$1.0880 compared with a New York close of \$1.0775 on Friday.

However, any euphoria was quickly damped down early in London trading by fears that reduced oil demand after the ending of the strike will hit sterling.

"There was a time when the end of the strike would have helped the pound but it's dragged on too long and the end looks messy", one dealer said.

The result was that sterling fell back during the day from its opening London level. The sterling index opened at 71.6, compared with a close on Friday of 70.8, but fell back to

70.9 by yesterday's closing calculation. The muted strike effect was shown up most clearly in the pound's rate against the mark. It opened at DM3.6350 but fell back to below DM3.60 as petrocurency fears took hold, before steadying to close at DM3.6105.

The \$218 million underlying fall in reserves in February (\$168 million before adjustments) underlined that the West German Bundesbank had been the main force behind last week's concerted attacks on the dollar.

However, the view of Bank of England officials is that the announcement effects of intervention can be as important as its size.

Another possibility is that the scale of the Bank's participation is disguised in the reserves' figures because one technique it

may have employed is the sale of dollars to buy marks, with a neutral effect on reserves.

The central banks stayed out of the market yesterday, although fears of further intervention continued to dominate trading. The dollar rose steadily, closing in London at DM3.3720, compared with DM3.3600 on Friday.

US home sales rose by 2.6 per cent in January, but the December increase was revised downwards from 3.1 to 1.3 per cent and there was no discernible effect on the exchanges.

Figures published by the Department of Trade and Industry in London appeared to show that the British economy is heading off on a new credit boom. Hire purchase and other specialist consumer credit advanced in January totalling £1,164 million, comfortably

beating the previous record of £1,009 million in May last year. However, two special factors were at work. The first was an unusually large number of attractive hire purchase deals in the motor trade. New car sales in January were worth £103 million, compared with £73 million a year earlier.

The second factor was that hire purchase rates became more competitive as bank base rates rose, most consumer credit rates adjusting only slowly to a new, higher level of general interest rates. Thus, there was a switch from bank to other consumer credit.

Hopes of an early reduction in base rates faded quickly yesterday. Money market interest rates opened lower but firmed on sterling weakness. The three-month interbank rate finished at 14-13 1/2 per cent.

Prices expected to fall further

New Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) figures, which show that production passed 16 million barrels a day last month, and the end of the miners' strike in Britain are expected to lead to a further fall in oil spot prices, writes David Young, Our Energy Correspondent.

Rotterdam market prices for North Sea crude have dropped by around 15 cents a barrel to \$26.60, compared with the official price of \$28.65 set by the British National Oil Corporation.

Improving weather conditions and the end of the miners' strike UK power station oil-burning has been running at the equivalent of 6 per cent of Opec output - could lead to renewed pressure for further cuts in

official world oil prices. There has also been speculation in the oil market that Saudi Arabia has again started to sell oil from its floating stockpile held in tankers in the Far East and the Caribbean.

Saudi Arabia production is now thought to be running at 4 million barrels a day compared with an Opec quota of 4.35 million bpd

Urgency at last in SE talks

By Jeremy Warner

The Stock Exchange's ruling council meets today in a fresh attempt to reach agreement on radical proposals for constitutional change which will allow new corporate members to join the market.

The 52-member council has been debating the alternatives for change at its weekly meetings since the beginning of January.

Mr George Nissen, chairman of the constitutional committee charged with drafting the proposals, said last night: "I believe we have produced a workable scheme although there are a number of variants that need to be discussed by the council. I am hopeful the proposals will be adopted though they may require some more work yet."

It is understood that the new proposals are not markedly different from those referred to the committee for redrafting some weeks ago. However, there is a growing feeling of urgency among council members because of increased competition from other markets and some may now be prepared to put their doubts behind them in return for a quick solution.

The basic problem remains the acceptability of the proposals to the associate members of the market.

They account for more than 48 per cent of the market's 4,500 individual members but unlike the others, they are not proprietors of member firms and therefore cannot hope to benefit from the money being spent by outsiders to buy stockbroking and jobbing firms.

The present proposals put a maximum value of £10,000 on individual member's share in the stock market and this is believed to be unacceptably low to a large number of associates.

The proposed changes are expected to be put to a vote of Stock Exchange members in July.

A 75 per cent majority will be required. The Bank of England is expected to announce the identity of the chairman of the Securities and Investments Board today.

Accountants attack Insolvency Bill

By Philip Robinson

The Institute of Chartered Accountants yesterday issued a sharp attack on the Government's Bill reforming insolvency laws which is halfway through its passage through Parliament.

The institute says the Bill is poorly drafted, has omitted a number of recommendations of the Cork report on which it was based, and will need substantial amending before some parts have any meaning.

In a 195-point submission to the Government, the institute urges reconsideration of some of the basic Cork recommendations which have either been diluted beyond recognition, or omitted altogether. Central to its argument is the reinstatement of the special insolvency courts which would work not to

the High Court calendar, but on a five-day-week year-round basis offering a unified and streamlined system. The special courts proposal was not included in the Bill.

The institute says that proposals on administration orders contain so many uncertainties and anomalies as to make the scheme unworkable in its present form. Under Cork companies in difficulties could appoint an administrator which would give them protection from creditors for a year.

The institute adds that as the Bill stands directors, already fearing severe penalties against them should a company be forced into compulsory liquidation, would appoint an administrator at an earlier stage.

£87m fall at Royal Insurance

By Richard Thomson

Royal Insurance, the first of the British composite insurers to produce its 1984 results, yesterday announced a £87.2 million fall in pretax profits from £98.4 million in 1983 to £11.2 million last year. This followed an underwriting loss of £347.4 million compared with a £209.6 million loss in 1983.

Mr Alan Horsford, chief executive, said the result was "very disappointing".

Royal was hit by escalating claims worldwide. Weather losses cost the company £95 million, while higher claims in the US resulted in an operating loss of £76.3 million, almost eliminating the £87.5 million profit made on Royal other operations.

Tempus, page 21

IN BRIEF

Matthey to close HQ

Johnson Matthey, the precious metals refiner which lost £150 million last year when its banking subsidiary was rescued by the Bank of England, is closing its administrative headquarters in Southgate, North London.

The move, involving more than 125 redundancies and transfer of other staff, is expected to save £2 million a year. A new corporate office to provide support to senior management will be formed at group headquarters in Hatton Garden. Closure of Southgate will take place between May and autumn this year.

ICI in £20m expansion

ICI yesterday unveiled plans to spend £20 million on new laboratories and research staff at its Jealton's Hill research station in Berkshire. This marks a significant advance for its research and development in the fast-growing agrochemicals field. An extra £6 million will go on research, and up to 200 jobs will be created.

Dr Peter Doyle, research and development director of ICI's plant protection division, said yesterday the plans are the result of ICI's strategic aim to double its international agrochemical business by the mid 1990s.

Sales up

January's seasonally adjusted retail sales index was 112.8, slightly higher than the provisional estimate of 112.6. This was a steep drop from December's 117 but the two months together, at an average of 115.1, indicate continued retail sales growth.

Mr Nelson Oliver, chairman of Wimpey Homes Holdings, a subsidiary of George Wimpey, yesterday urged the Government to release more land private housebuilding. He said it was "nothing short of scandalous" that land, particularly in the south east, should account for 40 per cent of the price of a house.

Hawley surge

Pretax profits at Hawley Leisure rose by 121 per cent in the year ended December 31 last to £31.5 million, and earnings per share rose by 78 per cent to 11.4. Dividends per share rose by 20 per cent. Tempus, page 21



It wasn't until 1935

that one of the most significant components of birthdays made its debut. That year, Patty and Mildred Hill wrote the song 'Happy Birthday to You' - the rest is history. Understandably, amidst all the cracked notes, few if any of the singers that year realised that another noteworthy event was happening even as they sang. We at Mobil were celebrating our fiftieth birthday in the UK, making us the oldest international oil company in Britain.

Not surprisingly, we still hold that title 50 years later. Today, Mobil is busily involved in almost every aspect of the energy business, from producing some 10 per cent of Britain's oil needs from the North Sea, to refining and marketing a wide range of advanced petroleum products.

Are we singing our own praises? Not at all. Except, that is, for a rousing chorus of the Hills' smash hit.

Mobil

1849: Harrods business founded by Mr Henry Charles Harrod as a small grocery shop at No 8 Middle Queen's Buildings, London, which later became part of the Brompton Road. 1959: Harrods is bought by House of Fraser for £36 million after a bid battle in which the Harrods board favoured Fraser's rival Debenhams. 1974 March: Unsuccessful £212 million takeover of House of Fraser by Boots. 1977 March: Lorrho buys control of Scottish and Universal Investments (Suits) holds 10 per cent of Fraser. September: Lorrho buys 20 per cent of Fraser from Carter Hawley Hale. November: Lord Duncan-Sandys, Lorrho chairman, and Mr Roland 'Tiny' Rowland, chief executive, appointed to the Fraser board. 1980 June: Lorrho fails to increase its representation on the Fraser board and to raise the Fraser dividend. August: Mr Rowland voted out as Fraser's deputy chairman and replaced by Professor Roland Smith. Mr Ernest Sharp is also appointed to the board. 1981 January: Fraser board meeting: Sir Hugh Fraser voted out and Professor Smith bids in as chairman. Lorrho 150p a share. February: Monopolies Commission rules Lorrho bid against the public interest. 1982 September: Lorrho proposes sacking Professor Smith and hiring off Harrods as a separate company. October: Fraser takes successful legal action to freeze 1.3 million

136 years of Harrods

shares held by mystery shareholder. November: Lorrho drops call to sack Professor Smith, is defeated over plans to demerge Harrods.

1983 May: Shareholders vote against Harrods demerger. June: Lorrho wins more shareholder support for demerger but fails to gain necessary 75 per cent majority. August: Government orders inquiry into share ownership of Fraser after 7.8 million shares changed hands

between the two Harrods demerger votes.

1984 May: Lorrho proposes the appointment of 12 additional directors to Fraser board. June: Government orders Monopolies Commission to report on where the proposal is "an extension of material influence." August: Lorrho cleared of making backdoor share deals to gain influence over Fraser. September: Lorrho fails in a bid to remove Mr Ernest Sharp as a

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT All Ord.	779.94 (+4.9)
FT-100	610.53 (+4.71)
FT-100 Securities	80.19 (+0.02)
FT-SE 100	1265.7 (+14.9)
Burgins	24.952
Dataseam USM	109.58 (+0.85)
New York	
Dow Jones	1297.81 (+1.54)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	12,509.01 (+89.35)
Hang Kong	1399.46 (+1.88)
Hang Seng	204.2 (+3.4)
Sydney: AO	796.1 (+5.6)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1207.3 (+10.9)
Brussels	
General	270.12 (+17.33)

GOLD

London fixings	
am \$288.30pm \$288.65	
close \$288.25-\$288.75	\$289.25
\$289.75	
New York	
Comex \$287.35	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Jackson, J. & H. B.	109 +25
Harold Ingram	125 +25
Edin. Oil & Gas	70 +14
Selectv	11 +2
House of Fraser	409 +59
Ransomes, Sims	628 +85
Neil & Spencer	45 +5
BAT	368 +35
Marling Ind	74 +7
Rock	11 +1
Common Bros	80 +7
Invent Energy	860 +70
Radio City	38 +8
Woodhead, Jones	26 +2
Sheffield Brick	14 +1
Balloy (Ben)	29 +2
ICC Oil	22 +4 1/2
FALLS:	
Cifer	13 -3
Waring & Gillow	128 -12
Polytech Marine	200 -2
Star Computer	35 -3
Keep Trust	18 1/4 -1 1/4

CURRENCIES

London:	
2: \$1.0705 (-0.0010)	
2: DM 3.6105 (+0.0085)	
2: Sfr 3.0950 (+0.0140)	
2: FF 11.0422 (+0.0322)	
2: Yen 278.21 (-1.89)	
2: Index: 70.9 (+0.1)	
New York:	
2: \$1.0680	
5: DM 3.5757	
5: Index: 154.4 (+0.1)	
ECU £0.615480	
SDR £0.892590	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 14%	
3-month interbank 14%-13 1/2%	
3-month eligible bills: buying rate 13 1/2%-13%	
US:	
Prime Rate 10.50%	
Federal Funds 8 1/2%	
3-month Treasury Bills 8.71-8.57%	
Long bond 9 1/2%-9 1/4%	

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

1984 '85 in Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge
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... tried to go easier at trading, reflecting

in the wake of the miners' strike, checked when the ground again in the exchanges and as the outlook for oil emerged itself.

The month was the only one more than "bitty,"

shortage and situation.

Day-to-day mainly in the area per cent during the one stage in the dropped to 14-13% was firm again at 15-14 per cent.

Dollar Cds (%)
1 month 9.64-9.5
6 months 10.05-9.52

EURO-CURRENCY

Dollar	Cash
7 days	28-28½
1 month	29-29½
3 months	30-30½
6 months	31-31½
9 months	32-32½
1 year	33-33½
18 months	34-34½
2 years	35-35½
3 years	36-36½
4 years	37-37½
5 years	38-38½

GOLD

Koumbaroff (per £100)
1 month 10.55-10.52
6 months 10.55-10.52
1 year 10.55-10.52
18 months 10.55-10.52
2 years 10.55-10.52
3 years 10.55-10.52
4 years 10.55-10.52
5 years 10.55-10.52

BONDS (%)

1 month	3 months	6 months	9 months	1 year	18 months	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½
10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½
10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½
10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½
10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½
10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½
10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½
10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½
10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½	10-10½

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

benefited only in the ending of the strike. It was taken up in this Far East fell swiftly once entered the fray, again on depressed oil strong dollar.

are some fairly hefty others at one time to sliding down to 1.9677: A saw the pound

finally settle for a points at 1.9765.

Sterling charted course against major currencies. Marks, dropped more than at one time, but close compared with Friday.

The effective exchange finished up having opened at 71

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates
1 month	1 month
3 months	3 months
6 months	6 months
9 months	9 months
1 year	1 year
18 months	18 months
2 years	2 years
3 years	3 years
4 years	4 years
5 years	5 years

March 4	March 4	1 month
\$1.0677-1.0670	\$1.0700-1.0710	0.52-0.52c prem

[illegible]

ANY NEWS

tax 1.723 (.903). credit was 17.586 earnings per share were (\$28.94) and net asset value (\$56.83).

HOUSE AND REX issued dividend .01 p (1p.75p) has been 984, Figures in £000, 8.985 (£8,606), trading (44 loss) and pretax-loss after interest (-). Earnings per share (loss).

The Manchester-based firm produces the furniture products to the Furniture Industries' Association and its European subsidiary pays \$9 million for royalties of Solway, the cable group.

Multinomially to see through British Vita will be the largest company employing sales with sales of significant contribution to total revenue. The company's latest Memorandum reported full year profits of £11.5 million - expectations - compared with £1.238 million.

CAPEL AND COMPANY, the company has announced that it has acquired Messrs Resources Incorporated the gas and oil rights, wells and assets that are owned by the properties in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Canada include an area of 280,000 acres for about £3,000,000 and another 121,000 acres are undeveloped with LTV since the acquisition is 575 million pounds sterling but no other interest in the company.

BUSBY FOR BUSI-NESS & FINANCE (4.26p) is a subsidiary of BSA Group, Figures in £000, 4.401 (£2,481), and £86 (1,455). Pretax (£33) including £15 (£11), operating expenses 1,980 interest payable 41 (412). Earnings per share £0.69p.

A subsidiary of Svenska AB and 0.32 Swedish shillings in millions of crown, according to figures released at 0.29 (6.58%). The group organized to better define the

responsibilities of the When fully implemented is expected to lead to improvement in profitability.

CREDIT BANK LANDS Results for 1983: Swiss francs 1983 million francs divided among 506 m. Million 115 francs share (110), 23 francs per share (121) and 160 participation certificates bank is to raise \$60 million one-for-12 rights issue.

HIGH-POINT SEEDS results for six months to Nov. 30, 1983 (Figures in £000): Total profit £249,000 (Tax paid £19,000) gains £250,600 (£28,000) for actively has continued during the first half, respectively.

BRAHAM MILL forms for six months compared with same period 30, 1983, (Figs in £000000) 130,001 (£48.7), Profit (207), Tax 211 (108). (0.8p). The pro-forma amounts to Dec 31 shows more of the enlarged group in the engineering companies required further adjustments. In 1984 after making adjustments, the board presentation provides a new presentation of the results for comparison of 1983.

RAINE INDUSTRIES interim dividend of 0.25 declared for the six months ended 31st December 1983, (Losses) Pretax loss 6183 (303) after interest (145). Loss per share (earnings 1.23). The mining seriously affected group established as a whole, resulting in ending profit of £446,000.

SCOTTISH INVESTMENT TRUST: Gross investment for the three months to September 1983 was 2.4% (figures in £00000) was 2.4%, pretax income £638,000, board says that over the income rose strongly. A trend will not be sustainable rate the income outlook for year is encouraging. Referring strength of the dollar performance of the underlying US portfolio investing some 30 p cent total assets at January 31.

TEMPUS

Royal Insurance gloom casts a shadow over sector

No one expected the 1984 British composites results to be anything other than bad. But it comes as a nasty surprise to discover that Royal Insurance, the analysts' darling, has produced figures even worse than anticipated. It does not bode well for the rest of the sector's results still to come.

The company managed to claw in a pretax profit of £11.5 million for the year, but this was in the teeth of severe operating losses mainly due to general market conditions, in the US and Canada.

With two-thirds of its US business in the disastrous commercial lines sector, Royal again suffered from an unexpected 9 per cent increase in claims, costing an additional £44 million. As a result the US pretax loss soared by £51.6 million, from £27.4 million in 1983 to £79.0 million this time.

In Canada, a doubling of the fourth-quarter pretax loss to £12.8 million helped to push this year's result down to a loss of £16.4 million against a £15.2 million profit for 1983.

The other main factor depressing results outside the US was worldwide weather losses of £93 million, £25 million higher than Royal expected.

But the gloom is not total. The statement by Mr Horsford, Royal's chief executive, that premium rates, especially in the US, are hardening, looks increasingly convincing. In US commercial multi-peril business, for instance, the third quarter rise of 19 per cent had become 32 to 40 per cent by December.

A reorganization of its administrative arrangements and reduction in agents in the US should cut around 4 per cent from its expense costs. A reduction in Royal's US premium growth to about 3 per cent in 1984, against an industry average of 8 per cent, should also improve the quality of its risks.

The results is that, although there is no likelihood of Royal producing an operating profit this year, the improvement should become visible in 1986. With these expectations, and with its solvency still at a fairly healthy 64 per cent, Royal has raised its dividend modestly by 4.2 per cent to a final 23.75p for the year. After dropping 7p from 558p after the results, the shares rebounded to 560p, giving a 1/5 of 10.

Hawley Leisure

Hawley Leisure's rapid rise to prominence has included a string of acquisitions, frequently for paper; accounting policies which have occasionally provoked seizures among the analysts;

changes of residence; and the development of an image which, according to one broker, provokes strong City hostility.

Hawley's rating has suffered accordingly. Yesterday's 121 per cent growth in pretax profits left the shares on a single figure multiple at 102p, even though the group looks capable of generating still more earnings expansion in the current year.

Any growth sounds as if it

will stem from in-house profit gains. The word from Hawley is that consolidation, rather than a hectic acquisition pace, is now the order of the day, even though the US quote is still a viable possibility. Brokers, nonetheless, are pencilling in a pretax figure of £40 million plus, and earnings growth in the 40 per cent region for 1985.

Gilts

The Government Broker was into the market quite early yesterday, selling tranches where he could of his new 10-year gilt, Treasury 2 1/2 per cent indexed 2016; he may have disposed of about £30 million of the £150 million issue at around £98 1/2. But he failed, apparently, to stimulate any interest in his other indexed-linked 10-year, Treasury 2 1/2 per cent 2009, and no sales were reported.

Miners' strike or no miners' strike, the market was in no mood to absorb stock, and it tended to retreat at the sight of the funding juggernaut. On the day, the index-linked sector rose by nearly point, and traders described the market as "boring".

This judgement may not be confined to a single day's trading. Traders complain that the move to outlaw bondwashing has robbed the gilts market of its most potent appeal - fun and mystery.

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Hence, according to Richard Golding of Greaveson Grant, the Inland Revenue may have shot itself in the foot over bond washing, with the £300 million boost to the Exchequer cancelled out by the damage to the funding effort.

Arguably, the cost of issuing any long-dated stock will now rise, since the true benefit of holding such paper has been reduced.

But, equally, it is true that the market's ancient spirit of bargain hunting is still flourishing. Taxing accrued still leaves the British gilts market out of line, since in parallel overseas markets, such interest is still paid gross, not net. Hurry along to your friendly Post Office. Give the bought through National Savings will still, insofar as anyone knows anything, be paid gross, even under the new regime.

Leaders edge forward as gilts receive a lift

By Pam Spooner and Cliff Feltham

The decision by the miners to return to work had a limited impact on stock markets, as predicted by most of the analysts. Since the City has virtually ignored the miners' strike for the last six months, there was little hope that the formal end of the strike would bring out a rash of buyers.

Prices among leading shares did fall pennies higher as the second leg of the account got

was the big talking point in Throgmorton Street, since it brings to an end, it would seem, the eight-year battle between the Fraser board and Lomrho, shareholder and bidder. The House of Fraser share price was up 59p at 403p.

The agreed takeover by the Al-Fayed family of the Harrods and Army & Navy stores group helped bring several pence to the shares of a number of companies in that sector. W. H. Smith, for example, was marked up to 190p at one stage as market hopes of a takeover there were revived. But the price later settled back to 184p, just 6p up on the day.

There were extra pennies too for Dixons Group, Habitat Mothercare, Marks and Spencer, NSS Newsagents and Ward White. But Goldsmith Group, the jewellery to bookmaking business, stayed in the doldrums, down another 4p at 192p, after last week's profit downgrading.

Market attention was turned more toward events on the foreign exchanges and in the oil markets. The pound fell back again, down around half a cent in London during the day and then slipping further behind in trade in New York. Spot prices for crude stayed weak.

But the end of the strike at least helped prices of government stocks. Traders reckon the resumption of work takes pressure off interest rates, and could even allow rates to fall. Gilts showed progress of up to 50p in response.

The bid for House of Fraser

Williams says there are many

benefits to be gained from a merger, even though the two groups have similar activities and products. Joining the two companies, says the bidder, would produce substantial "synergy".

The share price of Williams jumped 16p to 244p, as the market registered its approval of the company's expansion plans which follow so closely on a strong profits of £1.92 million.

Group Lotus shares sped 6p higher to 97p as the City heard of a substantial contract for the car group from Chrysler Corp. of the US. The Americans are using Lotus for research and development, as are Ford and General Motors, but market men are hoping Chrysler will also take a stake in the British group. Mr David Wickins, chairman of Lotus, confirmed the deal with Chrysler, but said there was no implication in that that the Americans would buy Lotus shares.

against losses of £76,000 last time.

The offer for Jackson is five new Williams ordinary shares and eight new 5 per cent cum conversion preference shares for every 20 Jackson shares.

There was renewed interest in Harold Ingram, the knitwear group, with the shares up 10p to 120p, one of the sharpest moves of the day, recalling the gyrations which last year witnessed the jump to 448p.

The company's broker, Savory Miln, says it has not spoken to the company about the latest activity. But the market is assuming it is the work of the followers of the curious Liechtenstein-based company Wasson Establishment, which acquired a controlling stake in Harold Ingram at 65p a share.

Supporting the upward

moves are much improved figures - a half-time profit of £137,000 compared with a loss of £33,000 - and the restoration of a dividend payout.

Harold Ingram is at present capitalized at around £4 million and it is thought not to have attracted too much attention from likely predators on the domestic knitwear scene.

There is still plenty of steam left in the price of BAT

Even so, some market men still think there is a lot of American interest in Oxford, particularly from one of its more important customers, the General Electric group.

Takeover talk again circulated on the building and construction pitches. Bagge-ridge Brick jumped another 5p to 261p, while Rugby-Portland Cement added 5 1/2p to 132p. Watsey Hughes gained 12p to

308p, and Blue Circle rose 8p to 513p.

Birmid Qualeast, the engineer and toolmaker, came in for bid speculation again, although many analysts expect Birmid to be doing the bidding. Birmid shares rose 5p to 87 1/2p yesterday.

On the motors pitches, Jaguar again sped higher, the shares up 13p to 338p. Renewed weakness in sterling and American support for the shares continue to help the price.

There was evidence of profit-taking in Waring and Gillow, the furnishings group, which last week showed a polished performance on reports of a large stake changing hands. The shares were down 12p to 128p.

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PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR 1984

Royal Insurance

	Year 1984 (unaudited) £m	Year 1983 (audited) £m
General Insurance:		
Premiums Written	2,268.4	1,910.1
Underwriting Balance	-347.4	-209.6
Investment Income allocated to General Insurance operations ..	237.4	204.2
General Insurance Result	-110.0	-5.4
Long-term Insurance Profit	20.7	17.5
Investment Income attributable to Capital and Reserves	87.2	75.1
Share of Associated Companies' Profits	13.3	11.2
Profit before Taxation	11.2	98.4
Less Taxation	17.6	17.8
Minority Interests	-0.4	0.4
Net Profit/Loss	-6.0	80.2
Earnings per share - See Note 1 ..	2.5p (loss)	34.0p
Dividends for the year	56.3	53.8
Pence per share - See Note 1	23.75p	22.8p
Transfer to/from Retained Profits ..	-62.3	26.4
Capital and Reserves - See Note 2 ..	£1,829m	£1,652m

Note 1 Earnings and dividends per share have been adjusted for the one for four scrip issue made in June 1984.

Note 2 Capital and Reserves includes the Long-term Insurance Business Reserve of £245m for 1984 (1983: £225m).

EXCHANGE RATES

Foreign currencies have been translated according to our normal practice at approximately the average rates of exchange ruling during the year. The principal rates were:-

	Year 1984	Year 1983
USA	\$1.33	\$1.51
Canada	\$1.73	\$1.87
Australia	\$1.52	\$1.68
Netherlands	Fls4.27	Fls4.33

The pre-tax result has been adversely affected by £7.0m due to changes in exchange rates; the underwriting balance being worsened by £29.6m, with investment income and Associated Companies benefiting by a net amount of £22.6m.

	Year 1984						Year 1983					
	Premiums Written £m	Under- Writing Balance £m	Allocated Investment Income £m	General Insurance Result £m	Inv. Inc. on Capital & Reserves £m	Pre-tax Profit £m	Premiums Written £m	Under- Writing Balance £m	Allocated Investment Income £m	General Insurance Result £m	Inv. Inc. on Capital & Reserves £m	Pre-tax Profit £m
Royal USA	946.7	-220.2	116.0	-104.2	27.9	-76.3	807.6	-139.9	92.8	-47.1	22.4	-24.7
Royal UK	604.1	-42.0	57.2	15.2	17.2	32.4	533.1	-24.1	56.3	32.2	15.9	48.1
Royal Canada	233.2	-53.6	29.7	-23.9	7.5	-16.4	200.3	-20.6	28.1	7.5	7.7	15.2
Royal Australia	176.1	-3.7	14.0	10.3	6.6	16.0	113.4	-3.2	9.0	5.8	4.2	10.0
Royal Int	149.7	-4.8	8.8	4.0	5.2	11.9*	116.4	-7.1	7.9	0.8	5.0	7.1*
Royal Nederland	71.9	-6.7	6.4	-0.3	4.2	3.9	67.6	-4.6	6.2	1.6	3.9	5.5
Royal Re	86.7	-16.4	5.3	-11.1	2.7	-8.4	71.7	-10.1	3.9	-6.2	3.1	-3.1
	2288.4	-347.4	237.4	-110.0	71.3	-36.0	1,910.1	-209.6	204.2	-5.4	62.2	58.1

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Nasdim – four steps ahead in the investor protection field?

Chips that must change

The microelectronics industry is in transition and if it fails to make the changes demanded by the computer manufacturers, who themselves are under pressure from the consumers, a collapse could follow. Two reports in the past week have highlighted the sensitivities of the microelectronics market and the demands on it.

National Semiconductor, one of the world's biggest suppliers of chips to the computer industry and a leading employer in Britain, outlined the reasons for the sudden unprecedented drop in sales of semiconductors in recent months. The report of an interview with Donald P. Beadle, vice-president and managing director of National Semiconductor's division in Europe, highlighted the problems.

The computer business had been at a high in late 1983 and early 1984. Manufacturers of computers had ordered in profusion, optimistically expecting the business to continue to boom. That optimism was unfounded. The slump in the semiconductor industry is not unprecedented but its speed and timing have taken even experienced hands by surprise.

Mr Beadle says: "It's worse this time because of the magnitude of the drop in bookings. We had the highest book-to-bill ratio that the industry had ever seen during late 1983 and early 1984... but this created tremendous backlogs and the process of adjusting order rates has created an extremely steep downturn."

"The personal computer industry has certainly been the leading cause of the peaks and the valleys of the present slump, but the whole industry overestimated its need for parts. The PC industry ordered a

lot in 1983 and early 1984, but began to cancel these orders in late 1984. When you have order rates like this, lead times go out and supply becomes chaotic."

The European PC market, smaller than that of the United States and the Pacific basin, had a lesser impact on the semiconductor market. European order rates were in proportion to those experienced in the United States and European manufacturers behaved equally erratically but the semiconductor market did not experience the same drop.

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

The semiconductor suppliers have had to respond with short-term and long-term strategies.

In the short term National chose two weeks last month to defer manufacturing. The company remains optimistic but still cautious. Any other change to National's manufacturing plans will depend on the state of the market.

The fact that top suppliers such as National would even consider redundancies on any scale shows how serious the downturn in sales could become.

National says: "The slump will be over when inventories are corrected. We feel that this will be the summer of 1985 at best. Certainly, 1985 will experience slower growth than earlier predictions. Our customers are still experiencing increasing sales, but not at the rate which

was anticipated. Semiconductor sales are going to go down."

In the long term the semiconductor industry must also devise a long-term strategy. The growth of the telecommunications market and increasing demand for chips and "intelligent" circuitry in communications equipment will give the industry a much needed boost. But that requires the companies to invest millions of pounds every year in research and development.

There is little doubt that the chip manufacturers will play a vital role in the future of computers. A comprehensive analysis of computing at the end of this decade by CSC UK Computer Sciences Company emphasizes the demands that will be placed on the semiconductor suppliers in the late 1980s. The report outlines the research into the development of sophisticated information processing systems and specially written programs to speed up data flow.

The study says: "Another focus of research is leading towards VLSI (Very Large-Scale Integration) high density microelectronics single-chip computers, in which the processor, memory and peripheral control logic will all be on the same chip, minimizing data paths and enabling very fast cycle time to be achieved. The earliest example of this is likely to be the Innos transputer."

The conclusion also indicates the pressure which will be automatically placed on all microchip manufacturers. They must pour millions into research and development to produce a high-performance composite microchip.

The chip manufacturers are now under the same pressure as their computer designing customers.

Sinclair's double offer in the office market

By Geoff Wheelwright

In the wake of recent product announcements by Acorn, Atari and Commodore, Sir Clive Sinclair has revealed what is in store for Sinclair Research.

The company recently shelved plans to offer shares on the unlisted securities market and Sir Clive said last week that he has stopped taking delivery of the Spectrum Plus and QL computers from his subcontractors for about a month.

He claims the production pause is to allow retailers to clear stocks of other companies' computers, which did not do so well at Christmas. These moves also indicate that Sinclair Research is reaching a turning point.

Like Acorn and Commodore, Sinclair Research intends to move into the business market to combat what is regarded as a levelling-off in the home computer market - but not by releasing strictly business computers which compete in the IBM PC field.

Sir Clive is planning two products which he hopes could have a major impact on the business market - but not necessarily among the conventional desktop machines. The first product is to be a portable business computer with built-in microdrive, flat-screen busi-



Floating around: Has Sinclair chosen the right direction?

ness-style keyboard, the ability to use software programs written for the popular Sinclair Spectrum home computer and the ability to run on battery power.

The second development is a "wafer-scale integration" silicon chip design which would allow users of the QL and then the new Sinclair portable to have a battery-operated memory system of 500K or more in a removable package. And because the memory would be based around a silicon chip, it would be smaller and less prone to breakdown than existing tape or disc store systems.

It would be the world's first such low-cost system of its type.

Sir Clive estimates it would sell for about £500.

Both products represent significantly greater gambles than the QL itself. The portable computer - with its access to the huge base of computer software programs developed for the Spectrum - is the less risky.

There is a growing movement in all sectors of the market to build portable computers - and Sinclair's flat-screen technology combined with the company's long-held penchant for producing small products, such as thumbdrive-size radios, pocket televisions and electric trikes, should leave it well placed for designing a small portable.

Moscow mission misses

By Paul Walton

A co-ordinated shopping expedition mounted by the Soviet Union has so far failed to secure a factory to build personal computers from any of the several western suppliers approached, including Britain's ICL.

An investigation by the United States Defence Department claims that no western computer-maker approached would agree to provide a complete factory for the Russians. ICL discussed a deal put forward by a Soviet delegation accompanying Mikhail Gorbachev on his visit to Britain last year. "As far as we know, this sale is not going through," said a spokeswoman for the office of Richard Perle, the Deputy Assistant Defence Secretary.

The promise of trade is now being deployed as an economic incentive to split some countries from the West's multilateral COCOM high-technology embargo, according to the Pentagon. "It was a Soviet fishing expedition," said a spokesman for the United States Department. "They offered a big deal to see if a western company would bite."

Three separate Soviet delegations discussed making or importing the West's leading personal computers with the top management of at least five companies in five countries including IBM and Apple.

American firms could not have contemplated such a deal at any time, says the Pentagon. "The sale of computer factories has been prohibited since 1981 - no exports of technology to produce computers to the Soviet Union," said a Pentagon official.

Some American sources are now suggesting that this shopping expedition was planned to come before arms control talks resume in Geneva and as such was a political manoeuvre rather than a practical proposition.

Instant musical scores while you play the tune

From Jan Katz
San Francisco

Computer scientists at California Stanford University have developed a computer system that can produce a written music score while listening to music.

By using advanced artificial intelligence techniques, the scientists intend to develop the system so that it can respond musically to another musician. It would "jam" or improvise along with another performer.

The system has been developed by Bernard Mont-Reynaud and his seven researchers at the university's Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics.

Mont-Reynaud described the system as having a surprising number of commercial applications. He said: "We've been working on the project for over three years and there has suddenly been an explosive interest in the system. There seem to be applications in recording studios, and in other areas, where manipulation of sound is important."

Mont-Reynaud has been retained as a consultant by a division of Lucasfilm where he is supervising the installation of a new sound system incorporating some of the advances that

the Stanford researchers have made. The sound system will be used to work on film soundtracks.

Mont-Reynaud's research team is among the few groups working on intelligent signal processing systems as opposed to more standard artificial intelligence work which concerns itself with emulating human behaviour.

During the past three years the university has spent more than \$300,000, largely from funds donated by arts bodies and the National Science Foundation.

The system is teaching scientists about music

The Stanford computer system works by rapidly sampling music at 30,000 times per second to digitize the analogue musical signal in a method similar to that used in producing audio-digital disc records. It then produces an analysis of frequency and timing that make up the basic grammar of a musical composition.

A program using techniques based on artificial intelligence interprets this information by separating out multiple sounds from one another and deciding what the notes are, the right

tempo fluctuations and the key.

The system is already capable of transforming a one-minute piece of music such as a Mozart minuet into a full printed score in around five minutes. But when it comes to more modern music such as highly improvised compositions that have few discernible patterns, the system runs into difficulties.

Mont-Reynaud's researchers are constantly trying to improve their system and, in doing so, they are learning new facts about musical inter-relationships. At the moment, the whole system is based on a specially built minicomputer.

The Stanford scientists are now working on transferring their research work on to a more standard computer from a company called Lisp Machine, which specializes in computers for artificial intelligence applications.

Mont-Reynaud expects eventually to see versions of the system running on smaller personal computers such as the IBM PC. But he denies that his music system could be taught to compose. "That is too far-fetched and much too ambitious. The process of composing is much too complex for us to be able to simulate at this stage or even in the near future."

Apricot chief goes in ACT clash

From Michael Parrott, Paris
and Jon Carr, San Francisco

The president of ACT's American microcomputer company, Apricot Inc, has resigned along with two other top managers after a dispute with the British company over management policies.

ACT has also flown advisers to the United States to help overcome delays in its business plans. Robert Coolidge, president of the American arm, resigned after speaking with ACT's head Roger Foster and referred to cultural differences between the British and American ways of running the business.

Mr Coolidge had hoped to run Apricot Inc much more independently, of ACT than provided.

John Leftwich denied Apricot was behind its schedule for the training of dealers and sales representatives because of Mr Coolidge, but said he expects the company to "accelerate forward" after the management changes. Around half a dozen ACT staff in Britain have been brought in to speed the vital training process in the use of the Apricot machine.

ACT is also expanding its operations in France, Germany and Norway. Its French company ACT-Apricot was set up last July and is now selling around 500 computers a month.

It has received at least a psychological boost in the past few weeks as it is the only British company contacted by the French Government over its plans to introduce a schools computer programme.

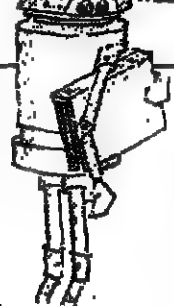
ACT-Apricot's tender for the schools contract offers its basic computer, the FI, for £600 each, around 30 per cent less than the market price.

But it is by no means certain that the French Government will choose the Apricot.

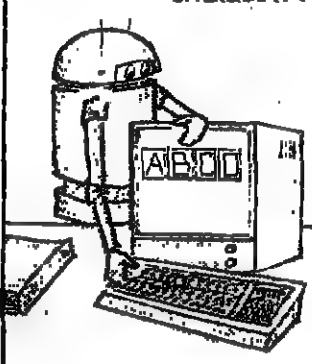
In Britain ACT says it is selling 3,500 machines a month. Although Sinclair and Acorn have expressed readiness to manufacture in France, ACT-Apricot is against the idea. "We would be quite prepared to do so, if the Government asked us to, but we feel it would be more efficient if we were allowed to produce the machines in Scotland and leave most of the other equipment to be made in France," says a spokesman.

ABO6

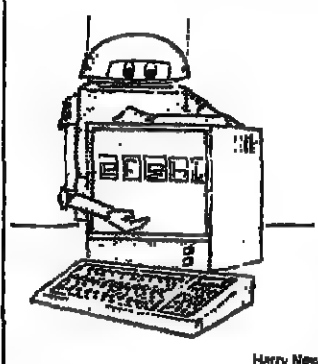
I've been studying the manual of this new video processor.



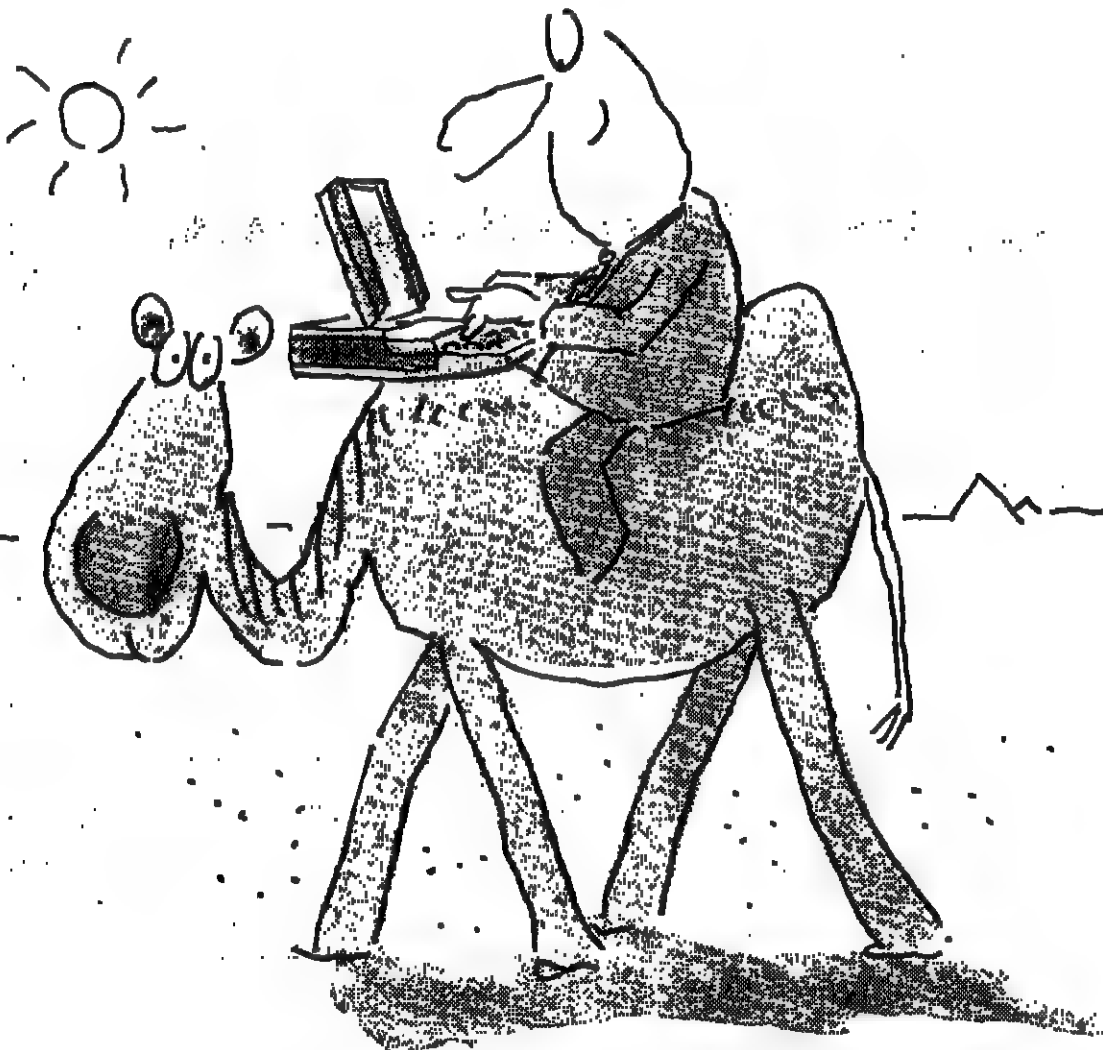
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COMPUTER HORIZONS/2

Seduced at last - well, almost -
by the mainframe in my semi

To understand the neurotic condition in which I find myself on the issue of computers, it would help if you share my earlier obsession with hi-fi. For computers have effectively taken over the market segment previously occupied by stereos.

The subtleties of arms, cartridges and current duffers find their precise correlates in the nuances of CPUs, Winchester and pixels. And this correlation provides historical evidence for the direction in which the computer market is heading - just as hi-fi moved relentlessly towards greater expense and sophistication, so computers are now on their way to the stratosphere.

The upper limit is very high indeed - be the first in your street with an IBM mainframe - fifth-generation artificial intelligence for the madman in the semi with the shoeless kids.

The point is, of course, that nobody finds twin floppies funny any more. Booting-up, bytes and bugs barely raise a smile. In fact, the only thing people do laugh at these days are the dim memories of ancient days - Sinclair's rubber keyboards, "massive" 16K memories and those pub tennis games which seemed pretty smart at the time.

But the great thing about those prelapsarian days was that people like me could stand aloof. Life was manifestly too short to play electronic tennis, zap aliens or even to attempt to load one's gas bill on to a tape drive. The whole industry was just so tacky, strictly for the sallow schoolkids of any age.

Things, you might say, have changed. The sallow kids have shuffled out of their dank bedrooms looking distinctly snug. It's not just that computers have begun to take over the world - we all knew they would eventually - rather that they have become insidiously desirable, even to level-headed, tanned and fit types like me.

USER HOSTILE

by Brian Appleyard

What's it for? Madam, computers are an end, not a means to an end.



As the manufacturers expected, the toy market has peaked. The aliens have finally lost and people really are thinking about loading their gas bills. That, of course, means disc drives followed rapidly by modems to access the big data banks (and, when necessary, to start a third world war), better software and absolutely no rubber keyboards.

Meanwhile, the cost of business micros has fallen steadily and the two ends of the market are drawing together to trap the unwary.

Now we all know that there are only so many gas bills and really, for the moment, there is no practical use for a business micro in the home. But the marketing pressure is mounting.

First there are the transitional machines - the Sinclair QL and the new models from Atari and Commodore in the United States. Then there is the computer habit developed at work and perhaps justifying a compatible micro at home.

And then, of course, there are marginal cases like me. I write - and that opens up the whole

dazzling world of word processing, not to mention the possibility of exquisitely structured data bases to plan my books on. Perhaps just a little computer.

That's it. All that remains is to buy the mags, develop an obsessive state, a slowing of the steps down Tottenham Court Road, a silly vocabulary and I'm finished. As night follows day a micro will find its way into my house just as long as I can make up my mind which one. What does the kid need shoes for? Spring is nearly here.

But no, I will be sensible. I need a computer for word processing and data storage and that's it. My ambitions will be limited to the appropriate options. I shall, ultimately, coolly and with all my marbles intact, buy one. I am simply waiting for the right moment, taxwise, workwise etc.

Unhappily, the truth is I love staring at the mags, walking into shops and taking in the psychology - human and machine - of the micro.

There's the Apple Macintosh - cockily upright with a Californian spring in its foot. If it were human, it would have white socks, sunglasses and a Sony Walkman: high-tech hedonism.

The Apricot - a bit smarmy, all that so-called British good design, basically Terence Conran with a green screen. The human Apricot dresses in Next clothes and drinks Soave Classico.

But oh, the IBM - the classic melting chunks of ice cream shape and all the mystique of the Big Blue.

The imagination has snagged on all the prickly marketing devices and consumer mantras - I can no longer think straight. Giant fruits and ice cream haunt my dreams. This must stop, reason must prevail - I intend to buy a computer because it will improve my efficiency, full stop.

Where staff will increase by 50 per cent

The computer-staff shortage is worsening, according to a survey by the National Computing Centre and Computer Weekly. Demand for systems analysts is expected to rise by 50 per cent over the next five years and for network and database controllers an increase of 65 per cent is predicted. Reflecting the changes in the industry, however, demand for data preparation staff is expected to fall by nine per cent.

The survey noted that despite the increasing demand for computer staff at most levels, the industry is still reluctant to take on trainees - fewer than a third of the 300 computer installations surveyed did any training. Salaries on average rose by 6½ per cent to 7 per cent, although data-processing managers did slightly better, winning an 8½ per cent rise from an average of £14,192 to £15,392 and analysts/programmers achieved only an average of 3½ per cent from £8,960 to £9,291.

Amstrad's success

Amstrad's announcement of increased interim pretax profits from £5.3 million to

COMPUTER BRIEFING

£9.5 million - helped considerably by sales of its CPC464 home computer - must be particularly galling to less fortunate competitors as it entered the micro market only last July. At that time, many computer analysts were predicting that market saturation and a stabilizing demand meant no newcomer could fight off the established giants. But with the CPC464, which includes an integral cassette deck and monitor, Amstrad has begun the move towards making computers simpler to understand and use.

Every disc tells a story

A new photographic storage and retrieval system, based on an IBM PC/AT, a laser-disc and disc player, recently made its public debut at the Creative Services show in London. Developed by the Image Bank, the specially written software enables a

STAFF CANTEN



"Frankly, I've seen better means on my computerized-accounts package."

client, equipped with a selection of video discs and player, to gain almost instantaneous access to any one of the

more than 20,000 colour pictures stored on each disc.

The software features easily understood questions which guide the researcher through a simple tree of choices, selecting from a base of 19 categories and defining more specific requests, such as a Pacific sunrise or Swiss hang-gliders with a further range of prompts. Apart from being able to view the stock of a large photo library from the client's own office, the system allows cropping of the image, and will ultimately allow the superimposition of type and graphics.

Price busters

How long can Acorn hold the price of the BBC micro at £399? High Street electrical store Rumbelows is already selling the computer with a cassette recorder and software for £299 while some other shops are discounting to £350. Rumbelows marketing director Peter Jackson says the price cut is temporary to clear unsold Christmas stock, although it is difficult to envisage customers being willing to revert to paying much more.

Floppies make the big leap for the late 1980s

By Tony Durham

The data-storing capacity of floppy discs has doubled every two or three years since its introduction in the early 1970s. In the next year or two, the "floppy's" capacity is due to take an unprecedented leap, as manufacturers introduce a technique called perpendicular recording.

A 5¼ in disc, looking much like the discs used today with many microcomputers, will hold as much as 20 megabytes, equivalent to 20 million characters of text. A typist working all day at a word processor could take a year to fill one of them.

Today's discs of the same size hold at most 3.3 million bytes, or in some cases as little as 100,000 bytes.

No one would turn down the offer of more disc storage if the price was right. Saving the results from a large spreadsheet or financial planning model, for example, can eat up disc space. Plenty of customers have bought up-market microcomputers with "hard" disc drives of five to 20 megabytes capacity.

But those discs are part of the machine, and if connected to others, the discs are part of the network. Unlike most hard discs the new, high-capacity "floppies" will be removable. This has obvious advantages. It could also create problems.

It is very tempting for individuals in a big company to build up large private hoards of data, but from the company's point of view it may be more efficient to store data where it can be shared. Twenty megabytes is a lot of data to lock up in a desk drawer, and data-processing managers may view the

spread of high-capacity "floppies" with dismay.

Even if they are not the best place to store vital records, the new super "floppies" may be a relatively cheap alternative to hard discs, for the personal computer user who does not have a DP manager breathing down his or her neck. They may also be valuable for other purposes, including back-up and software distribution.

Perpendicular recording, invented by Professor Shunichi Iwasaki of Tohoku University, is one good idea that European and American companies have borrowed from Japan.

Conventional "longitudinal" recording forms a pattern of tiny magnetized regions in the disc surface. The magnetic field within each region lies in the plane of the disc. If a region is made too small, its magnetism is wiped out by the opposing magnetic fields of neighbouring regions. This limits the amount of data that can be crowded on to the disc surface.

Perpendicular or "vertical" recording calls for a different kind of recording head, which magnetizes the disc in a direction perpendicular to its surface. Regions of opposing

magnetization can now be packed much closer.

The NEC Corporation in Tokyo is developing perpendicular recording for hard discs, and two years ago it set up a subsidiary called Anelva which is applying similar technology to "floppies".

Researchers at Kodak in the US have developed a magnetic coating which is equally suitable for conventional or vertical recording.

Italy's Olivetti believes the best material for vertical recording is a thin film of cobalt and chromium, deposited - by a vacuum process on top of a film of iron and nickel.

In West Germany, BASF has experimented with metallic coatings played on the plastic disc by a potentially cheaper chemical process.

In parallel with its work on recording media, these and other companies are developing new recording heads and disc-drive mechanisms. Unfortunately your old disc drive will not be able to take advantage of the new discs.

The IBM business-park connection

By Judith Hentley

IBM (UK) Pension Trust is investing £30 million in a 150-acre business park between Southampton and Portsmouth, part of a development thought to be worth £200 million. It is certainly the largest property investment the fund has made through its Harbour Properties subsidiary. It is providing the money to buy the land and build the necessary infrastructure with Arlington Securities, a private company.

About 60,000 to 80,000 sq ft of speculative

space will be built on the 45-acre first phase.

Rents of about £5 a sq ft will be asked.

The scheme is being aimed at the high-tech and electronics industries. It would be easy to speculate that IBM itself will occupy some of the Solent Business Park but the developer and the fund say this is not necessarily the case. It is not yet clear how much of the development will be retained by the pension fund. It will depend on the amount of land sold to other institutions or owner occupiers.

Programming: is bigger better?

If you are a computer analyst or programmer or thinking of becoming one, a recent survey suggests that you should ask yourself whether you are a small installation or a large installation person.

The survey that led its authors, Andrew Friedman and Dominic Cornford, to the conclusion was carried out at Bristol University economics department. Small installations were defined as those employing up to nine programmer/analysts and large installations 30 or more.

A big factor in job satisfaction is the variety of work. Large installations should be expected to provide a greater variety of work, but this does not always follow. If the installations work is rigidly structured with teams working exclusively on their own projects people can easily get trapped into a narrow speciality. More enlightened management often have a policy of deliberately moving people round to provide a variety of experience and reduce staff turnover.

The survey also found that whereas 50 per cent of small

JOB SCENE

By Graham Bunting

installations employed analyst programmers, only 31 per cent of large installations did. So programmers who like the contact with users, that the programmer/analyst role provides, should be looking at the smaller installations.

Similarly those who do not enjoy close supervision of their work should be looking towards the smaller installation. Smaller installations reported clearance of work by a senior in 57 per cent of the installations surveyed compared to 74 per cent in large installations.

Career opportunities also affect job satisfaction. In large installations their division of labour and long lines of authority, technical specialisation or an increasing administrative role are avenues for promotion. The lack of a career path in the smaller installations probably accounts for the survey's finding that turnover

of development staff was 27 per cent in small installations compared to only 11 per cent in large sites.

If money is the determining factor, large installations have the greater pull. The survey found that they, on average, paid a programmer with one year's experience £6,500, an analyst with two years' programming and one year's analysis experience £8,500, and a senior analyst/project leader £12,025. This compared to £6,034, £8,193 and £11,404 in small installations.

At the top of the pyramid, the differential for data-processing managers was even greater: £20,363 compared to £15,405.

The survey concluded that choosing between a large and a small installation can be one of the most important decisions an analyst or programmer can make. Those preferring a wide range of responsibilities and fewer formal rules should choose a smaller installation. Those preferring substantial training, the opportunity to work on the latest systems, and a stable career path would be better off opting for a large installation.

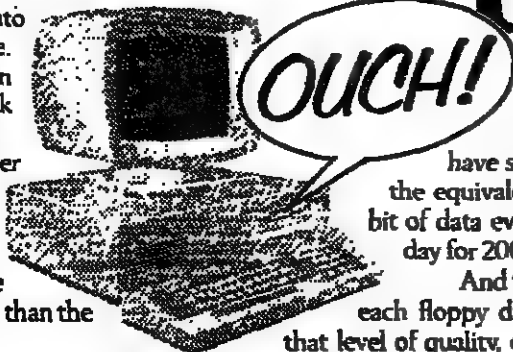
You'd be surprised what a floppy disk can do to your computer.

It might come as a bit of a surprise that the floppy disk you put into your computer is abrasive.

This means that it can create wear on your disk drive heads that can be harmful to your computer and to your pocket.

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THE HOT LION REPORT

LION CONFIRMS:
"UNDER - £1000"
MULTIPLEXOR RUMOUR
- OFFICIAL

Lion Systems Developments have finally ended the rumours surrounding the price of their latest X25 multiplexor.

A spokesperson for Lion has confirmed that they have indeed given the model 9900 a price tag of less than £1000.

But perhaps even more surprising is the list of features which accompanies this quality product, giving it a performance above and beyond most of its more expensive competitors.

● Firmware options for X.25, point to point or multidrop concentrator

● Inbuilt management facility

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● 4 or 8 channels

● Approved for connection to Data/Kilostream (X21 BIS) Services

Lion Systems

For further details about the Lion model 9900 contact: Lion Systems Developments Limited, Oxford Road, Stokenchurch, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 5SR. Telephone: Radnage (0294 026) 3951. Telex: 837627 LIONGK G.

COMPUTER HORIZONS/3

Don't tie us up in tape

From Martyn Thomas, chairman, Praxis Systems. The DTI plans this month to introduce a new export control order implementing the latest agreement by CoCom on the export of high technology products. For the first time the rules will cover software, making it necessary to get a licence for each export of a product, even to a Nato country. Press reports suggest that much ordinary software will be covered by the rules. At present, we have found it impossible to discover the categories of software to be

LETTERS

included. The DTI intends to allow only three weeks for industry discussion between publishing the rules and making them law.

In 1980, the UK software balance-of-trade deficit was about £140 million. In 1983 the deficit had grown to £1,500 million. In these circumstances, the national interest demands that software exporters are hampered by the minimum of bureaucracy.

It may be that the rules, when published, will satisfy these requirements. If they do not, they must be modified before becoming law.

From H. A. Nicholls, chief executive, Aston Science Park. Bill Johnston reports that Dr Jones of the Technical Change Centre believes science parks associated with universities have generally failed to achieve their objectives. We at Aston have exceeded our forecasts to date. More importantly, in the knowledge that successful parks in the United States took eight to 15 years before the become established, we have built and organized and developed operating systems capable of achieving the targets which we have established for the next 10 years.

A photographic look at life in Hewlett-Packard



Some of the pictures which helped give a rather unusual look to Hewlett-Packard's annual report. H-P's corporate communications director Roger Wilson brought together a talented group of

artists and designers, and photographer Brian Griffin, who was highly praised for his book *Power: British Management in Focus*. He was given an open brief by the firm and

worked for 13 days. In the early stages of the project there were some worried faces, admitted Roger Wilson, but the end result has been welcomed throughout the company.

Why British software should look east

By Tom Sato

The recent crisis at Acorn and the collapse of Oric have shown how desperate the computer industry's troubles are but, the hardest hit are the software companies which support the hardware manufacturers.

Last Christmas was make-or-buy time for many software companies and they have put a lot of effort into producing high quality software to stop the sliding trend.

Despite the decline, the quality of the software now available in Britain has never been better. Britain is still the only country in which software sales change as fast as those of the music industry. The number of programs released every week is now as many as 30.

However, because the British computer industry has matured

early, our software houses are now in the best position to export to those countries which have not seen the boom we experienced between 1982 and 1984.

There are plenty of countries left whose computer industry is just starting to boom. Who else but the British are more experienced at producing computer software?

One company which is exploiting this situation is Melbourne House. It is famous for producing *The Hobbit*, which was one of Britain's most popular adventure games. It has an export manager covering most EEC countries, including France, Italy, Holland and West Germany, and also has offices in New York and Australia.

A fifth of the sales now come from export and the company is now trying to enter the Japanese market with its MSX products.

Another company which has made inroads into foreign markets is Quicksilver. Recently Quicksilver attended an exhibition in Singapore, promoting its new range of MSX games.

However, the company's sales team found to their horror that some of their software for the Spectrum and Commodore 64 has already found its way to Singapore, thanks to enterprising software pirates. It shows that if you do not export your software, somebody else could do it for you.

Of all the countries, Japan is the best bet for export. After a slow start, the MSX standard now dominates Japan's computer stores, with 50 per cent of home computers sold being MSX-compatible. More than a million MSXs are now estimated to be in Japanese homes, but the quality of the MSX software is nothing like as good

as the British.

This is partly due to the small memory available on Japanese MSXs, usually 16K compared with British 64K MSXs, but mainly due to lack of expertise in small computers. The Japanese did not have to struggle as the British did, so their software is less developed.

Britain had definite software trends such as the arcade adventure boom and Manic Miner-like platform games. In Japan MSX games are still oriented towards coin-operated arcade-type games or some kind of computer puzzle games.

If the British went to Japan now, they would find little competition. Yet most of our software houses are small, operated by few staff and inexperienced in exporting to such faraway places like Japan.

However, there is a clever alternative to going to Japan

and selling it yourself. Just ask the Japanese to come here, take it back and do the selling for you. Several American software houses now use Japanese marketing companies such as Asahi and Ponyca to advertise and sell computer software in Japan.

There is an MSX Working Group in London, set up by the manufacturers of MSX computers to provide support for software houses. They have even lent machines so that software houses can do the conversion, yet the number of MSX programs available from these companies is sparse.

It is about time the British software houses opened their eyes and started fighting back. They have everything going for them - good products, favourable exchange rates and growing interest from Japanese companies.

Computer Appointments

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Computer Appointments

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UK events

DEXPO Europe, 1985, Olympia 2, London, March 6-8 (01-882 9256)
Scottish Computer Show and Conference, Anderson Centre, Glasgow, March 12-14 (01-881 5051)

Info 85, Olympia, London, March 26-28 (01-847 1001)
6809 Colour Show, Royal Horticultural Hall, London SW1, March 30-31 (01-830 1612)

Overseas events

Personal Computer Show, Sydney, March 13-15
Personal Computer Show, Amsterdam, March 21-24
COMDEX/INTER, Anaheim, California, March 21-24

Compiled by Personal Computer News

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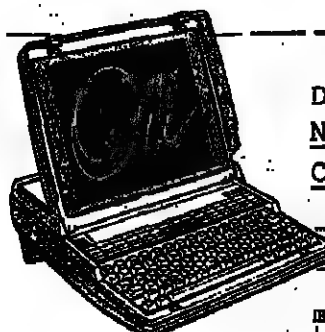
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Computer Appointments

also on page 31

mnt

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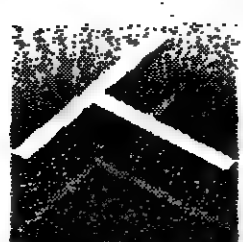
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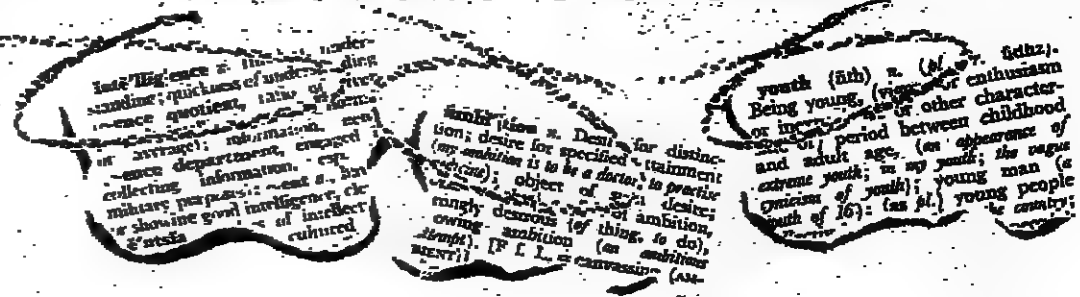
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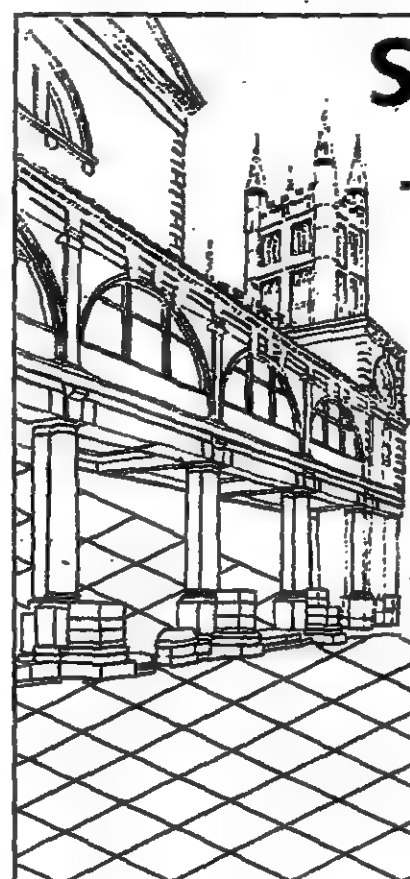
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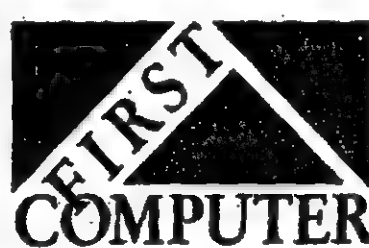
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Computer Appointments

also on pages 25 26 27

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Legal Appointments

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We wish to recruit an able and energetic lawyer to join our Intellectual Property Department. The successful applicant will be handling substantial litigation in the field of patents, trade marks and copyright and previous experience in this field, or in commercial litigation, plus the ability to understand scientific and technical matters, is essential.

Marine Solicitor

This Department of the firm requires a Senior Assistant Solicitor with not less than 3 years post-qualification experience in the fields of shipping litigation and commercial arbitration. Applicants will have worked in a City practice and specialised in charterparty disputes, cargo claims, marine insurance and commodity disputes and have appeared in the Commercial Court, conducted their own arbitrations, and travelled abroad on behalf of clients. This position offers good prospects and a rewarding career to the successful Applicant.

SIMPSON CURTIS & CO

Simpson Curtis & Co. is a substantial and growing practice based in Leeds. We are looking for young solicitors with commitment, a practical approach and proven ability to work in the following departments.

Previous experience is desirable but not essential.

COMPANY AND COMMERCIAL

The work includes corporate finance and banking, Stock Exchange issues and placings, joint ventures, acquisitions and mergers, reorganisations, UK and EEC competition law and intellectual property.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

The work involves substantial High Court and building arbitration work, a wide range of employment law, and litigation support for the firm's insolvency practice.

Salaries will be competitive and prospects are excellent.

Write or telephone in confidence to Richard Lee

Simpson Curtis & Co., 41 Park Square, Leeds LS1 2NS. Tel: 0532 433433

PROPERTY

All aspects of commercial property work are handled including industrial, office and retail developments, funding, planning and licensing, including appeals, and security for bankers.

PERSONAL FINANCE

The work is varied and challenging and involves tax planning, trusts, probate and related topics at a high level for a wide range of private clients.



NORTH WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ASSISTANT DISTRICT SECRETARY

Salary up to £15,000

ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE

We are looking for an enthusiastic, first class professional, reporting directly to the District Secretary, in an authority with a population in excess of 106,000. The postholder will lead a young and hard working team, responsible for day to day management of the Legal and Administrative Division and will be a member of the Departmental Management Team. He or she will be an all round experienced Solicitor, able to undertake occasional higher level advocacy and with proven managerial ability, preferably in local government.

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

Salary up to £12,600

ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE

We also need an Assistant Solicitor with a bias toward common law and advocacy. The postholder will ideally have some admitted experience, preferably in local government, but newly qualified solicitors will be considered. Ability to work under pressure, to advise in plain language and to participate in the wider aspects of the work of the authority would be a distinct advantage.

Assistance with relocation and other expenses are offered.

To find out more about the jobs on an informal basis, telephone the District Secretary, Bernard Quoroll, on Chippenham (0249) 654188, extension 164. For further details and an application form please contact the Personnel Section, North Wiltshire District Council, Monkton Park, Chippenham, Wiltshire, telephone Chippenham (0249) 654188, extension 123. Closing Date: 22nd March 1985

CLIFFORD-TURNER

Lawyer for Employees' Share Schemes and Pension Schemes

We wish to appoint an able lawyer to fulfil a dual role advising on both employees' share schemes and pension schemes. The successful applicant will join our established team of lawyers working in these interesting and expanding fields.

These are rapidly developing areas of practice requiring expertise in corporate and commercial law as well as tax and trust law. The work requires an imaginative and innovative yet practical approach to meet the demanding individual requirements of successful private companies as well as public companies & multi-nationals. Some of the work involves a foreign element.

Applications are invited from lawyers with appropriate experience or qualifications to work and succeed in these specialist fields. The post will be of particular interest to pension scheme lawyers wishing to extend their skills to employees' share schemes (or vice versa). However, we will also consider applications from lawyers with limited or no relevant experience if they can demonstrate a high level of ability and a willingness to develop the necessary skills.

The successful applicant will enjoy a very competitive salary, other benefits and excellent career prospects.

Please write with a detailed CV to Alistair Allan, at:-
Clifford-Turner,
Blackfriars House,
19 New Bridge Street,
London EC4V 6BY.

ASA LAW LOCUM SOLICITORS AVAILABLE COUNTRYWIDE 248 1139 (01)

PERMANENT SITUATIONS

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LONDON, WC1. - Asset Sol. High level commercial litigation. HC + CC. Exo prospects and salary.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES. Non-contingent for young Sol. 3 yrs adm. Partnership prospects. Sal £21,000.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES. Dom conveyancing and estate probate for Sol or Leg Exec. Exo salary.

WALTON-ON-THAMES. General litigation Solicitor for busy, friendly practice. 60% matrimonial + civil + crime + advocacy. Sal neg.

BUNNETTABLE. Conveyancing Solicitor for busy practice bordering Cheshire. Exo prospects. Sal £10,000.

GRAVESEND. Asset Solicitor in mainly non-contingent but some HC + CC work in 2nd conditions. Good sal and prospects.

TAVISTOCK. Gen practice Solicitor. HQ - 2 yrs exp. For lively market town practice. Exo prospects. Sal £12,000.

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ASA LAW, 6/7 Ludgate Sq, Ludgate Hill, EC4 (For locum and permanent appointments for Solicitors)

BERKSHIRE CONVEYANCING/LITIGATION

Security Pacific Trust Limited a subsidiary of the Security Pacific Corporation USA wish to recruit an

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

to join their in house legal department in the Reading head office reporting directly to the Company Solicitor. Applicants should be admitted at least 3 years and have had sound domestic conveyancing and litigation experience. A knowledge of the law relating to consumer credit and security while not essential would be an advantage. The post is a senior and demanding one within the company and the successful applicant would need to possess strong personal qualities in addition to a sound legal background. An attractive salary plus company car will be offered to the right applicant and in addition there will be the usual benefits associated with a substantial company in the financial sector.

Please apply with full C.V. to
The Company Solicitor,
Security Pacific Trust Ltd.,
208-214, Kings Road,
Reading,
Berkshire RG1 4PA.

Brown Cooper COMMERCIAL and MEDIA LAW

We are seeking two solicitors of outstanding ability. One must have had first class experience and either have or wish to acquire expertise in entertainment and media law. The other must have an excellent academic record and a wish to gain wide experience with partners working for clients worldwide.

The firm is young and has fourteen lawyers. The atmosphere is congenial and the work is challenging. If you are ambitious, hard-working, personable and modest this could be for you.

Reply with C.V. to Peter Stuart-Burtie at:

Brown Cooper

7, Southampton Place, London WC1A 2DR.

GUILDFORD

Progressive, well established firm engaged in general practice with a strong emphasis on commercial and property work. Successful applicant will need to be a good team player with a proven ability to handle a wide range of cases. Salary £12,000 - £15,000. CV to Box 1139 W. The Times or phone Tel 01-248 1139.

FIRM IN NORTH LONDON

requires solicitor to undertake without supervision all aspects of commercial and property work including advocacy. The salary is good & the position is ideal for a motivated and enthusiastic person seeking an opportunity to develop their skills. Reply to Box 1139 W. The Times or phone Tel 01-248 1139.

PROBATE PERSON

Established firm with offices in South Cornwall seeks a probate solicitor for responsible position on retirement of Senior Executive. All aspects of probate work. Sal £12,000.

SOLICITORS with offices in North and South

England and Wales require two probate solicitors for responsible position on retirement of Senior Executive. All aspects of probate work. Sal £12,000.

CONVEYANCING/PROBATE

positions in busy practice in London. Salary £12,000 - £15,000. Personal appointments 01-248 1139.

GERMAN CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN LONDON

urgently seeks

newly or recently qualified solicitor or barrister to work as assistant in our Legal and Taxation Departments. The work consists of advising firms in the UK and West Germany on a wide range of commercial and tax matters and handling VAT related and debt collection cases. Good working knowledge of written and spoken German required. Excellent working environment. Salary negotiable. Written applications with full CV, quoting ref: BAU/HS, should be sent to: German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, 12/13 Suffolk Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 4HS

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY - over £20,000

Leading London Solicitors are seeking to recruit an experienced commercial conveyancing Solicitor. A generous salary will be offered and there are partnership prospects. All applications will be treated in strictest confidence.

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Corporate Lawyer

c.£25,000 + car
Carno - Mid Wales

Laura Ashley is now a multinational business with major manufacturing activities in the UK & Europe and a rapidly developing retail network of over 180 units in the UK, Europe and USA. The Group designs, manufactures, distributes and retails two major product ranges: ladies' and children's clothing, and home furnishings from wallpaper to upholstery fabrics and accessories. There is a highly professional management team. The turnover exceeds £100m.

In order to support the very high level of growth in the businesses and to introduce legal skills at present only available from outside, a new vacancy has been created for a corporate lawyer who will be responsible for all legal matters, advice at board level, liaison with external lawyers and the establishment of the legal department. Appointment as Company Secretary is envisaged in approximately two years. There will be some business travel to London, New York, Europe and the Far East.

Candidates should be lawyers with an established background in commercial law, currently practising at a senior level or working in a major international corporation. The position will be based at Carno, Mid Wales. There is an attractive benefits package including relocation assistance. Age guideline 35-40 approximately.

To apply please write quoting reference L156/TT to
Mr B. H. Mason at Mason & Nurse Associates,
1 Lancaster Place, Strand, London WC2E 7EB
Tel: 01 240 7805

Interviews to be held in London, Manchester and Birmingham.

PROPERTY FINANCE

TRAVERS SMITH BRAITHWAITE & Co require a solicitor now specializing in property who wishes to have a wider scope of work and who will enjoy the concept of servicing commercial banking and City clients in substantial and complex property finance transactions.

The solicitor appointed will probably be 3 plus years admitted, currently on an upper salary scale, have a commercial outlook and the ability to lead and structure property operations.

The flow of new work has increased consistently during recent times and now there is the clear need for an additional assistant of quality. The firm's policy is only to recruit people they believe to be of partnership potential.

Applications for this post, Reference C130, will be treated in strict confidence. Reuter Simkin Limited, 26-28 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HE. Telephone: 01-405 6852. Fax: 01-405 3677. Telex: 884064.

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RECRUITMENT

Deputy Company Secretary

We are one of the UK's major merchant banks, and a member of the Accepting Houses Committee. The last few years have been characterised by growth, expansion and innovation throughout our organisation and, as well as building on our traditional operations, we have widened the scope of our activities both functionally and geographically.

This has created the need for an ambitious lawyer to act as Deputy to our Company Secretary, who is one of our Senior Directors. His or her main responsibilities will be to advise on a wide variety of legal matters ranging from compliance with UK and EEC legislation in connection with the Group's affairs, to involvement in the establishment of new offices, or new subsidiary companies both at home and overseas. The work will also involve liaising with US lawyers. He or she will also be responsible for administering the Group's insurance arrangements and will be required to be involved in the normal duties of a Company Secretary's office of a major merchant bank.

Candidates should be well qualified lawyers with a number of years of company law experience, preferably with either one of the major City practices, or a financial institution. The successful candidate will have the potential to succeed the Company Secretary on his retirement in about two years time, and will have Assistant Director status.

We are offering a salary of c£24,000 together with an excellent benefits package which includes company car, subsidised mortgage, non-contributory pension scheme and free medical cover.

Please send personal and career details to Mrs Carolyn J Bland, Personnel Officer.

Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited,

114, Old Broad Street, London EC2P 2HY.

Department of Legal Services

As a result of our continuing development of business administration in the company, the Department of Legal Services has the following vacancies.

Contracts Manager

This post involves the negotiation of terms with writers, programme contributors, rights owners and their agents and the management of the Department's systems for the issuing and administration of contracts under the terms of our agreements with Equity, the MU, ACTT and WGB.

Likely candidates will have some negotiating experience and a knowledge of the provisions of the UK talent union agreements in the television/entertainment industry. Experience of staff supervision and computerised systems would be an advantage.

We offer competitive salaries, attractive pension and life assurance schemes and fringe benefits normally associated with a large company.

Please send full CV to Helen Avey, London Weekend Television, Kent House, Upper Ground, London SE1 9LT.

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DUDLEY MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE DUDLEY MAGISTRATES' COURT

BARRISTER OR SOLICITOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINEE

The successful applicant will be given a thorough grounding in all aspects of the work of a magistrates' court and, after training, will spend a great deal of time in court advising the Justices. Previous post holders have all obtained permanent posts of court clerks within 2 years.

Salary £6,201-£7,743 after 1 year to £10,431.

Applications naming 2 referees by 14 March 1985 to:-

J. P. BERRY ESQ.
Clerk to the Magistrates' Court Committee,
Magistrates' Court,
The Inhedge, Dudley,
West Midlands, DY1 1RY

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